



Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

## Social Sector Investment Programme 2007

The Cover shows our country's currency. We have selected the hexagon element embodied in the currency's design because when assembled it appears as a honeycomb which is described as a "masterpiece of engineering" demonstrating strength. This strength is conveyed by our strong economy. The hexagon shape used to frame images of our people and our institutions reflects the beneficiaries of our strong growing economy – Our Diverse People... Moving Onward to Vision 2020.

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# List of Acronyms

<b>ACTT</b>	Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago	<b>EAP</b>	Elite Athletes Policy
<b>AFFPEC</b>	Association of Family & Friends of Piparo Empowerment Centre	<b>ECCE</b>	Early Childhood Care and Education
<b>AGM</b>	Annual General Meeting	<b>ECLAC</b>	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>ALTA</b>	Adult Literacy Tutors Association	<b>EDD</b>	Enterprise Development Division
<b>AMC</b>	Approved Mortgage Companies	<b>EMIS</b>	Education Management Information System
<b>BGTT</b>	British Gas of Trinidad and Tobago	<b>ETIIC</b>	Entrepreneurial Training Institute & Incubation Centre
<b>BLING</b>	Block Leadership Initiative for the New Generation	<b>EVIS</b>	Evaluation Information System
<b>CANQATE</b>	Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education	<b>EWAs</b>	Environmental Work Areas
<b>CAP</b>	Continuous Assessment Programme	<b>FBO</b>	Faith Based Organisation
<b>CAPE</b>	Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination	<b>FSP</b>	Fair Share Policy
<b>CARE</b>	Community Action for Revival and Empowerment	<b>GAPP</b>	Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme
<b>CARIAD</b>	Caribbean Institute on Alcoholism and other Drug Problems	<b>GATE</b>	Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses
<b>CARICOM</b>	Caribbean Community and Common Market	<b>GCE</b>	General Certificate of Education
<b>CARIRI</b>	Caribbean Industrial and Research Institute	<b>GCR</b>	Global Competitiveness Report
<b>CBO</b>	Community Based Organisation	<b>GDI</b>	Gender-related Development Index
<b>CCC</b>	Civilian Conservation Corps	<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>CCSS</b>	Coordinating Committee on Social Sector	<b>GIS</b>	Government Information Service
<b>CCST</b>	Caribbean Council for Science and Technology	<b>GMRTT</b>	Global Medical Response of Trinidad and Tobago Limited
<b>CCTP</b>	Conditional Cash Transfer Programme	<b>Golden APPLE</b>	GoldenAge/Adolescents Partnership Programme and Long Term Care for the Elderly
<b>C-DAP</b>	Chronic Disease Assistance Plan	<b>GoRTT</b>	Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
<b>CDC&amp;GA</b>	Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs	<b>HCU</b>	Hindu Credit Union
<b>CDCC</b>	Caribbean Development Corporation	<b>HDC</b>	Housing Development Corporation
<b>CDERA</b>	Caribbean Disaster Emergency Relief Agency	<b>HDI</b>	Human Development Indicator
<b>CDF</b>	Community Development Fund	<b>HDR</b>	Human Development Report
<b>CEDAW</b>	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women	<b>HELP</b>	Higher Education Loan Programme
<b>CEII</b>	Community Environmental Improvement Initiative Programme	<b>HYPE</b>	Helping Youth Prepare for Employment
<b>CEIOs</b>	Community Environment Improvement Officers	<b>IADB</b>	Inter-American Development Bank
<b>CEPEP</b>	Community-based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme	<b>IADGs</b>	Internationally Agreed Development Goals
<b>CERP</b>	Community Enhancement and Rehabilitation Programme	<b>ICC</b>	International Cricket Council
<b>CETT</b>	Caribbean Centre of Excellence for Teacher Training	<b>ICIU</b>	International Corporation Initiatives Unit
<b>CFNI</b>	Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute	<b>ICT</b>	Information, Communications & Technology
<b>CNSP</b>	Children in Need of Special Protection	<b>ILO</b>	International Labour Organisation
<b>COSTAATT</b>	College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago	<b>IMA</b>	Institute of Marine Affairs
<b>CSDP</b>	Centre for Socially Displaced Persons	<b>Imat</b>	Information Made Available through Technology
<b>CSE</b>	Community Safety and Enhancement Programme	<b>IMC</b>	Inter-Ministerial Committee
<b>CSME</b>	Caribbean Single Market Economy	<b>INQAAHE</b>	International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education
<b>CSNs</b>	Civil Society Networks	<b>IOHE</b>	Inter-American Organisation for Higher Education
<b>CSO</b>	Central Statistical Office	<b>IRCs</b>	Information Resource Centres
<b>CSSP</b>	Continuous Sample Survey of Population	<b>LAC</b>	Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>CSST</b>	Caribbean Council for Science and Technology	<b>LGITTF</b>	Local Government Inter-Ministerial Transitional Task Force
<b>CYSF</b>	Caribbean Youth Science Forum	<b>LSA</b>	Land Settlement Agency
<b>DART</b>	Dead Animal Response Team	<b>LSB</b>	Local School Boards
<b>DERT</b>	Disaster Emergency Response Team	<b>MALMR</b>	Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources
<b>DfD</b>	Dollar for Dollar Plan	<b>MCF</b>	Micro Credit Fund
<b>DLS</b>	Distance Learning Secretariat	<b>MCT</b>	Multi-Purpose Community Based Telecentre
<b>DNSP</b>	Draft National Strategic Plan	<b>MDGs</b>	Millennium Development Goals
		<b>MEG</b>	Micro Enterprise and Training Development Grant
		<b>MEL</b>	Micro- Enterprise Loan



## List of Acronyms

<b>MIC</b>	Metal Industries Company	<b>PLWHA</b>	Persons Living With HIV/AIDS
<b>MICROFIN</b>	Micro Finance Ltd.	<b>PMCD</b>	Public Management Consulting Division
<b>MICS</b>	Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey	<b>PMU</b>	Programme Management Unit
<b>MILAT</b>	Military Led Academic Training Programme	<b>PPP (US)</b>	Purchasing Power Parity
<b>MISSP</b>	Management Information System for Social Sector Programmes	<b>PRDI</b>	Policy Research & Development Institute
<b>MLSMED</b>	Ministry of Labour, Small and Micro-Enterprise Development	<b>PRP</b>	Poverty Reduction Programme
<b>MOE</b>	Ministry of Education	<b>PSIP</b>	Public Sector Investment Programme
<b>MOH</b>	Ministry of Health	<b>RAPP</b>	Retirees Adolescent Partnership Programme
<b>MORI</b>	Market and Opinion Research International	<b>RMPF</b>	Regional Micro-Project Fund
<b>MOU</b>	Memorandum of Understanding	<b>RSHDCs</b>	Regional Social and Human Development Councils
<b>MPUE</b>	Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment	<b>S.H.A.R.E.</b>	Social Help and Rehabilitative Efforts
<b>MSG</b>	Multi - Sectoral Group	<b>SAFE</b>	Spirituality in Action for Family Empowerment
<b>MSTTE</b>	Ministry of Science, Technology & Tertiary Education	<b>SEPF</b>	Social and Economic Policy Framework
<b>MSYA</b>	Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs	<b>SIDS</b>	Small Island Developing States
<b>MTQ</b>	Means Testing Questionnaire	<b>SME</b>	Small and Medium Enterprise Sector
<b>MuST</b>	Multi-Sector Skills Training Programme	<b>SPORTT</b>	Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago
<b>MYPART</b>	Military Led Youth Programme of Apprenticeship and Re-orientation Training	<b>SRDMC</b>	Social Research Data Management Centre
<b>NACC</b>	National AIDS Co-ordinating Committee	<b>SSIP</b>	Social Sector Investment Programme
<b>NADAPP</b>	National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme	<b>SSP</b>	Social Sector Portal
<b>NAMDEVCO</b>	National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation	<b>SSS</b>	Student Support Services
<b>NCGD</b>	National Council for Gender Development	<b>STEP</b>	Sport Training and Enhancement Programme
<b>NCOSTI</b>	National Council for Science, Technology and Tertiary Education	<b>STI</b>	Science, Technology and Innovation
<b>NCSE</b>	National Certification of Secondary Schools	<b>SWMCOL</b>	Solid Waste Management Co. Ltd.
<b>NEC</b>	National Examinations Council	<b>THA</b>	Tobago House of Assembly
<b>NEDCO</b>	National Enterprise Development Co.	<b>TLIs</b>	Tertiary Level Institutions
<b>NESC</b>	National Employment Service	<b>TOWERS</b>	(shelter for battered women)
<b>NESC</b>	National Energy Skills Centre	<b>TTHTI</b>	Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute
<b>NFSD</b>	National Family Services Division	<b>TTNPP</b>	Trinidad and Tobago National Parenting Programme
<b>NGOs</b>	Non- Governmental Organisations	<b>TTNVQ</b>	Trinidad and Tobago National Vocational Qualification
<b>NHA</b>	National Housing Authority	<b>TTSPCA</b>	Trinidad and Tobago Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals
<b>NHIS</b>	National Health Insurance System	<b>TTUTA</b>	Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers Association
<b>NIBTT</b>	National Insurance Board of Trinidad and Tobago	<b>UNCRC</b>	United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
<b>NIHERST</b>	National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology	<b>UNDP</b>	United Nation Development Programme
<b>NIS</b>	National Insurance System	<b>UNESCO</b>	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
<b>NSDP</b>	National Skills Development Programme	<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations International Children's Education Fund
<b>NSDP</b>	National Social Development Programme	<b>URP</b>	Unemployment Relief Programme
<b>NSIP</b>	National Social Improvement Programme	<b>UTT</b>	University of Trinidad and Tobago
<b>NSP</b>	National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan	<b>UWI</b>	University of the West Indies
<b>NTA</b>	National Training Agency	<b>UWIDEC</b>	University of the West Indies Distance Education
<b>NWRHA</b>	North West Regional Health Authority	<b>VCT</b>	Voluntary Counselling and Testing
<b>NYC</b>	National Youth Council	<b>VUSSC</b>	Virtual University for Small States in the Commonwealth
<b>NYP</b>	National Youth Policy	<b>WDI</b>	World Development Indicators
<b>NYS</b>	National Youth Service	<b>YAPA</b>	Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture
<b>OAP</b>	Old Age Pension Benefit	<b>YDAC</b>	Youth Development Apprenticeship Centres Programme
<b>OAS</b>	Organization of American States	<b>YES</b>	Youth Entrepreneurial Success
<b>OJT</b>	On the Job Training	<b>YOUTH RISE</b>	Youth Resources for Implementing Successful Enterprise
<b>OPIC</b>	Older Persons Information Centre	<b>YTEPP</b>	Youth Training and Employment Partnership
<b>OSCRC</b>	One Step Career Resource Centre		
<b>PATH</b>	Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education		
<b>PIUs</b>	Project Implementation Units		

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# Introduction

The social sector continues to play a major role in the goal of achieving developed country status by the year 2020, through the processes articulated in the National Strategic Plan (NSP). Two out of the five development priorities for the attainment of developed country status, (i) the nurturing of a caring society and (ii) the development of an innovative people, fall under the purview of the Social Sector Ministries in Trinidad and Tobago. Elements of the third pillar, good governance, are also incorporated in the work and mandates of a number of social sector agencies and are included in this year's report.

During the new fiscal year 2007, sector activities will focus on the newly developed Vision 2020 Operational Plan 2007-2010, which constitutes a macro framework to facilitate the tracking of progress toward the achievement of national social development objectives. The Operational Plan, in conjunction with the Plan of Action emanating from the World Summit on Social Development and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will be used to identify strategic priorities for an improved social sector in Trinidad and Tobago.

The pioneering Social Sector Investment Programme (SSIP) Report was prepared in 2003 to provide a synopsis of the socio-economic impact of government investment in the social sector, with particular reference to the processes of policy design and programme implementation. To date, an additional four (4) SSIP Reports have been completed over the period 2004 to 2007. The purpose of the SSIP Report is two-fold. Firstly, it is used to gauge the overall annual performance of social sector ministries against the benchmark of the MDGs. Secondly, the document facilitates strategic planning through collaborative programming among these ministries. It is envisaged that the document will be a critical tool in measuring the targets outlined in the Vision 2020 Operational Plan for the period 2007-2010.

Over the years, there have been various challenges associated with social policy design and programming. The challenges range from insufficient coordination among state agencies

which retard programme implementation, to difficulties encountered in efforts to monitor and evaluate programme performance. Highly centralized social service delivery systems have also been criticized as presenting a hindrance to the efficient and effective delivery of social services. Consequently, in fiscal 2007 there will be a renewal of attempts to develop mechanisms for effecting continual monitoring and evaluation of social sector programmes. These efforts will parallel the pursuit of increased collaboration between social sector ministries and agencies, the major objective being the attainment of the MDGs and the medium-term targets for Vision 2020.

In fiscal 2007, social programming will continue to embody the investment in initiatives that will empower and improve the living conditions of vulnerable groups in society, such as the elderly, persons at risk of offending, persons below the poverty line, and children in need of special protection. The focus will again be placed on strengthening the support mechanisms for the family and building strong communities. The overall objective will be improved service delivery within the context of providing redress to targeted social grievances, namely child victimization, family dysfunction, and poverty. Programmes and initiatives that demonstrated a potential for success in fiscal 2006 will be strengthened and expanded to facilitate greater national coverage.

Government will invest significantly in social infrastructure, under the Public Sector Investment Programme and also in the establishment of institutional structures to aid in the achievement of medium to long-term social development goals. Investment in social programming will be informed by the findings of research conducted on social sector issues. It is also expected that the investment process will include the implementation of social policies that are geared towards improved service delivery by social sector ministries, and will foster an increased capacity for collaboration with nongovernmental organizations (including community-based organizations and faith-based organizations).

# The Caribbean Social Situation

The 1995 Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of that Summit recognized that people must be at the centre of development efforts and acknowledged the intrinsic link between poverty, unemployment and social integration. It emphasized the need for comprehensive national strategies for poverty reduction that are integrated into policies at all levels including: economic and fiscal policies; capacity building and institution building; and giving priority to investments in education, health, social protection and basic social services.

Subsequent to this, the Millennium Summit was held in 2000 which served as another watershed event in the process of strengthening the capacity of the international community to address the world's main development challenges. It marked the culmination of the consensus reached during the previous decade in such fields as peace, security and disarmament, poverty eradication, human rights, protection of the environment, population and gender equity.

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which emanated from this Summit are identified as follows:

- I. Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger
- II. Achieving universal primary education
- III. Promoting gender equality and empowering women
- IV. Reducing child mortality
- V. Improving maternal health
- VI. Combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- VII. Ensuring environmental sustainability by improving access to safe drinking water and the lives of slum dwellers
- VIII. Global partnership for development

These MDGs are currently used as the global point of reference for development matters. This is due, not only to their specific and multidimensional nature, but also to the fact

that 189 Member States of the United Nations have made a formal commitment to achieve them.

## Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Region

An initial investigation of the Caribbean situation may result in an overall positive assessment of the region's progress in achieving the MDGs. Human Development Indicators (HDI) for the Caribbean, with the exception of Haiti, is reasonably high<sup>1</sup>. Some Caribbean countries such as Barbados (30), St. Kitts and Nevis (49), Bahamas (50), Cuba (52) and Trinidad and Tobago (57)<sup>2</sup> have continually obtained rankings within the high human development category.

The region as a whole has performed comparatively well in achieving universal primary education, gender equality in schooling, reducing child mortality, access to safe drinking water and the control of HIV/AIDS. Life expectancy indices are generally high.

However, the progress of Caribbean countries is more accurately described as being very uneven<sup>3</sup>. Caribbean territories continue to face significant challenges such as high rates of poverty, food insecurity, high incidence of HIV/AIDS, male underachievement and deficiencies in the quality of education, life style diseases, crime, violence and illicit drug trafficking, and vulnerability to natural disasters. Appendix I summarizes the status of the Caribbean with respect to achieving the MDGs.

The reduced rate of economic growth in the region in recent times has further exacerbated this situation. In 2005, the majority of Caribbean countries registered a decline in their rate of economic growth relative to 2004. The highest rates of growth<sup>4</sup> were recorded by Grenada, Saint Lucia,

<sup>1</sup> The Human Development Index provides a summary measure of human development by assessing the average achievements in a country in three (3) basic dimensions of human development: 1) long healthy life, as measured by life expectancy at birth; 2) knowledge as measured by the adult literacy rate (given two thirds weight) and the combined primary, secondary and tertiary gross enrolment ratio (given one-third weight); and 3) a decent standard of living, as measured by GDP per capita (in US\$)

<sup>2</sup> Human Development Report, 2005.

<sup>3</sup> The population living below the national poverty line varies from 5% for the Bahamas to 66% for Haiti.

<sup>4</sup> The growth performance was mainly supported by the continued strength of external demand and low interest rates that prevailed throughout most of the year and, to a lesser extent, by the expansion of internal demand.

and Trinidad and Tobago (9.2%, 7.9% and 7.0%, respectively) followed by St Kitts and Nevis and Suriname (5% for both). Five other countries registered moderate growth rates averaging between 2% and 3%. The lowest growth rates were recorded by Jamaica and Guyana (1.4% and -2.9%, respectively). The growth prospects for most Caribbean countries were overshadowed by the increase in oil prices and adverse climatic conditions<sup>5</sup>. Regional Country Reports have highlighted that even with significant improvements in income distribution there is need for economic growth to bring more benefits to the poor.

### Challenges Facing the Region

Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are faced with a number of common challenges in their drive towards attaining and maintaining social development in its many dimensions. These challenges include:

- Poverty;
- The absence of up-to-date statistical data on social development;
- Inequality;
- High levels of unemployment and underemployment;
- Urban violence/Gender based violence;
- Use of the Islands as areas of trans-shipment of illicit drugs;
- Weak or disintegrating social capital;
- The impact of natural disasters;
- Economic, social and environmental vulnerability; and
- Social exclusion<sup>6</sup>.

The issue of poverty is seen as a major threat to social harmony, especially where it is associated with rising urbanization, growing inequality in income distribution, and the breakdown of traditional community structures.

Several complex, interrelated factors have contributed to poverty in the Caribbean. These include low economic

growth, macroeconomic instability, deficiencies in the labour market resulting in limited job growth, low productivity and low wages in the informal sector, and a decline in the quality of social services. Accordingly, countries that have sustained high economic growth rates over time and invested heavily in the social sectors have achieved relatively low levels of poverty, notably Antigua, the Bahamas, Barbados, and St. Kitts and Nevis. A clear strategy for social development in the region is needed if these challenges are to be overcome.

As an approach to addressing poverty eradication, a major thrust in Caribbean territories is in the area of employment creation so as to ensure that the twin goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all are achieved. Particular attention has been placed on youth development since the unemployment problem in the Caribbean is predominantly a youth phenomenon. Research has also pointed to the need to address the gender dichotomy in employment since the unemployment rate for young females is generally higher than that of their male counterparts for most countries in the region<sup>7</sup>.

However, although Caribbean governments emphasize the reduction of poverty in national development goals, precise targets are rarely set to focus these efforts. The main reason for this is that the theoretical analysis of poverty does not have a long history in the region. Also, most Caribbean countries do not regularly compile statistics on poverty.

Overcoming poverty requires action to be taken on the socio-economic factors that determine the chances of being or becoming poor as a result of the distribution and transmission of: (i) physical assets; (ii) educational capital and its influence in terms of differing employment opportunities; (iii) differences in social and symbolic capital; and (iv) types of family structure. There must be an investment in people through education and training and the creation of new employment opportunities, and enhanced access to public services. There is also a need to explore the possibility

5 Preliminary Overview of Caribbean Economies, ECLAC, January 2006

6 Social Integration and Sustainable Livelihoods in Caribbean SIDS, Asha Kambon, ECLAC June 2006

7 Report of the High Level Follow-up Meeting of the UN General Assembly 60th Session 2005 World Summit- Strengthening Social Development :The Way Forward for Caribbean SIDS, November 2005

## The Caribbean Social Situation

of developing a knowledge management system for the Caribbean, which would include the Caribbean Diaspora and which would seek to develop a science and technology policy framework for the region.<sup>8</sup>

The Human Development Index and the Millennium Development Goals indicators are useful gauges of social progress but fail to capture some important social issues, such as the rising crime rate and the increase in violence in the region, the impact of socio-economic factors on the family, migration, the impact of HIV/AIDS and non-communicable diseases, demographic ageing, income security and the impact of natural disasters. These issues will be explored in the ensuing paragraphs.

### I. The Impact of Socio-Economic Factors on the Family

Increasingly, male and female family members are spending longer hours away from home pursuing work-related activities. Given changes in family structure, it has become difficult to obtain supervision for children, many of whom have to be cared for by strangers in the absence of their parents. In other cases, children may be left unsupervised and exposed to deviant influences which could lead to juvenile offences, teenage sexual activities, child abuse and neglect.

Regional agreements have fostered greater levels of integration in the Caribbean. With the realization of the CSME there has been a thrust towards the free movement of labour. This also has implications for the movement of families across regional borders. According to St. Bernard (2003), "[o]n the down side, [this may also have] the effect of further dislocating families, as employment obligations would increase the mobility of labour across borders for variable periods. Increased mobility may exacerbate xenophobic tendencies that thwart relationships between citizens and migrant families across the region."<sup>9</sup>

### II. Migration

The MDGs do not specifically recognize the impact of migration on sustainable development, its positive impact on

development through brain-gain and remittances, nor the negative consequences in the form of brain-drain, trafficking, and the spread of infectious diseases. However, the growing number of mobile people worldwide and the evident impact of this movement on development, calls for the inclusion of all aspects of migration into national and global development agendas.

Caribbean countries like Jamaica, Cuba and Trinidad and Tobago are strong exporters of qualified labour, particularly teachers, nurses and other health professionals. Based on data provided by the United States Bureau of the Census 12, of all foreign nationals living in the United States, (10 %) are of Caribbean origin with the majority coming from Cuba (34%) and the Dominican Republic (25%), and more than (10 %) are from Haiti and Jamaica.<sup>10</sup>

Whereas some governments favour the exodus of their skilled citizens in exchange for desired remittances to boost their economies, many countries suffer tremendous constraints in their capacities to provide equal, qualitative and affordable social services to their populations. In addition, the continued depletion of professionals deprives the Caribbean region of its desperately needed qualified staff whose education and training were often a considerable expense to its taxpayers. Since qualified professionals play a critical role in sustainable development, this continuous loss threatens to paralyze progress underway in the economic and social sectors in the region. Participants at the High Level Follow-up Meeting to the United Nations General Assembly 60th Session 2005 World Summit which had as its theme "Strengthening Social Development: The Way Forward for Caribbean SIDS", noted that the provision of access to tertiary education, coupled with the creation of opportunities in areas of research and development, are interventions which could serve to reduce the brain drain.

### III. The Impact of HIV/AIDS and Non-Communicable Diseases.

The prevalence rate of HIV/AIDS in the Caribbean is

8 Ibid

9 Major Trends Affecting Families in Central America and the Caribbean, Dr. Godfrey St. Bernard, May 2003

10 Report of the 21st Session of CDCC, ECLAC January 2006

second only to that of Sub-Saharan Africa, in which current assessments have determined that a large number of cases go un-reported; therefore the magnitude of the pandemic is underestimated and is cause for great concern<sup>11</sup>

Significant variations have been observed in the pattern of HIV/AIDS across the region. The variable patterns of HIV/AIDS are likely to be a function of differences in sexual behaviour and specific facets of the region's economy and culture. The activities of migrant farm workers, tourism, prostitution, sexual encounters with multiple partners and levels of condom use, have all contributed to this panoply.

In the fight against the pandemic, awareness and acknowledgement of the severity of the disease, a willingness to prevent its spread, and the adoption of preventative steps are the best weapons available to countries to limit and arrest the spread of the disease. Additionally, care must be provided to young and mature adults and special provisions must be made available to cater to the needs of a growing number of older adults with the disease, as well as children who are left orphaned.

Non-communicable diseases have also been on the increase in the region. The four leading causes of death in the Caribbean in 2002 were all non-communicable diseases. Professor Karl Theodore observes that, "in the Caribbean, the burden of non-communicable diseases and injury has escalated partly as a result of demographic and epidemiological transitions"<sup>12</sup>. These 'lifestyle disease conditions' impact on economies by weakening the labour force through illness and mortality, and reducing national income as a result of the utilization of capital and accumulated savings in meeting treatments costs. This situation is further exacerbated by the fact that the per capita expenditure on health in the Caribbean is significantly lower than in developed countries. Given the challenges experienced by the Caribbean to finance the costs of these diseases, emphasis must be placed on changing lifestyle

practices as the principal factor in mitigating the effects of lifestyle diseases and reducing morbidity.<sup>13</sup>

### IV. Demographic Ageing

In the region, ageing has gained momentum due to declining fertility levels and increased longevity. Cuba, Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Antigua and Barbuda and Dominica display a pronounced process of population ageing. In light of this, increased attention must be given to meeting the needs of the elderly in the social domains of health, education and training, public safety, and income earning activities. Often, social security provisions and in particular pension funds are non-existent or inadequate to meet the needs of older persons, especially those who have not made contributions.

### V. Income Security

Issues surrounding social security have become important economic and political agenda items in the social development debates in the Caribbean. The vulnerability of the region has led to ongoing concerns, which centre on the effectiveness of existing social security schemes to meet the needs of at-risk populations. The implementation of the CSME presents an additional challenge to the financial sustainability of social protection mechanisms and the harmonization of legislation of social security schemes across the region. It is generally agreed that a regional framework to social protection and social development must be adopted under the auspices of CARICOM and within the CSME agenda to counteract potential negative effects of this development.

Social protection must be designed and implemented in ways that contributes to economic and social development. Dominica's Growth and Social Protection Strategy is an example of such an approach. This initiative which was highlighted in the country's 2006/2007 Budget was developed on four pillars: i) fiscal policy and administrative reform; ii) enhancement of the investment climate for private enterprise

11 In the Anglophone Caribbean Countries there were phenomenal increases being registered among persons aged 15-44 and in particular among females 15-19 years, particularly in Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, and the Bahamas.

12 Approaches to Health Sector Reforms vis-à-vis the Epidemiological Transition in the Caribbean : Policy Implications Challenges and Opportunities, Karl Theodore ECLAC 2006

13 Ibid. p 7



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development; iii) sectoral strategies for growth and; iv) strategies for poverty reduction and social protection<sup>14</sup>.

Other countries have also made significant strides in this area. The Government of Jamaica has embarked on a reform of the social safety nets of the country to increase their efficiency and effectiveness and ultimately attain the MDGs. An essential component of this reform was the merger of three existing income support benefits - the food stamp, the old age and incapacity allowance and the outdoor poor relief programme - into a single conditional cash transfer programme called the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH). This programme seeks to promote human capital development especially among children and young people as a means of breaking the inter-generational cycle of poverty. Preliminary evaluations indicated early successes in reducing poverty levels through the effective targeting of the poorest households for benefits. An increase in school attendance among children in beneficiary families was also observed.

### VI. The Impact of Natural Disasters on the Region

'Natural disasters' is the composite term covering distinct categories of physical hazards that are likely to have different human and economic impacts. There are two broad categories of danger - hydro-meteorological (floods, droughts, storms) and geophysical (earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and related tsunamis) - which are associated with distinct patterns and forms of economic vulnerability in the region. Some Caribbean islands are more susceptible to a particular set of disasters than others. The Eastern Caribbean for example is located in the Atlantic hurricane belt, and several of the Caribbean countries are also subject to potential volcanic eruptions.

Rural-to-urban migration and increasing urbanization has also aggravated the impact of natural disasters among developing Caribbean countries<sup>15</sup>. The trend towards urbanization provides additional pressures on the environment and increases vulnerability to natural hazards, particularly among the poor. Poor and socially disadvantaged groups are typically more vulnerable to, and worst affected by disasters. Factors such

as housing location (for example on unprotected floodplains and steep slopes), occupation (such as fishing) and lack of access to credit and insurance contribute to their heightened vulnerability. Disasters as a source of transient hardship and distress contribute in turn to persistent poverty.

In the Caribbean, scarce resources continue to be diverted from other social, economic and infrastructural programmes to respond to these disasters. Natural disasters of a significant magnitude have both a direct and indirect impact on the overall economic performance of these countries as is evidenced by changes in the GDP. This is demonstrated in Appendix II which highlights the economic losses due to natural events in the Caribbean in 2004. Some of the indirect consequences include: the worsening of the public deficit due to the shortfall in tax revenues and increases in public expenditure; decrease in exports and the increase in imports associated with the decline in the production capacities; and the strong public and private investment for reconstruction.

The direct consequences of natural disasters include a significant reduction in the agricultural sector and a decrease in activity in the manufacturing sectors due to the disruption of transportation and reduced production capacities. Appendix III reflects the sectoral distribution on the impact of natural disasters for four selected Caribbean small island developing states.

There has been an improvement in the early warning system of the region. In addition, a more coordinated regional approach to disaster management and recovery has been developed. However, there is need for more detailed research on the complex nature of vulnerability. Integrated development planning, completion of the work on vulnerability indices, capacity development and resources are all urgent requirements. In addition there is need for the improvement of disaster management at the community level. Also, foreign assistance should be directed towards disaster prevention by integrating it into traditional population and environmental funding for the Caribbean region.

<sup>14</sup> Caribbean Net News 07-20-2006

<sup>15</sup> Several islands—such as the Bahamas, Cuba, Dominica, Puerto Rico, and Trinidad and Tobago—are already predominantly urban.



The Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee (CDCC) has noted the frequency of natural disasters, the impact these disasters pose to Caribbean societies, the negative cumulative effects of such disasters on government resources, and the diversion of those resources from development priorities and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Consequently the CDCC has requested that the "ECLAC Sub regional headquarters for the Caribbean extend its work in disaster assessment, in close cooperation with the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Relief Agency (CDERA) and other relevant regional institutions, to include risk reduction with the objective of strengthening the resilience of the people and societies." <sup>16</sup>

### Strategies for Social Development in the Caribbean

Action is needed on various fronts to address these challenges. More specifically, these activities should include: strengthening the culture of evidence-based social policy formulation <sup>17</sup>; advancing the boundaries of social protection, striving for greater efficiency and coherence in the delivery of social protection programmes in the areas of administration and monitoring and evaluation; strengthening the institutional framework for long term social planning, and harmonizing social protection policies across the Caribbean region. <sup>18</sup>

Concrete action is needed to address the challenges and vulnerabilities of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) for the achievement of social development goals. The strategies identified for achieving the goals of Social Sector

Development are highlighted in the document "Towards a Caribbean Vision 2020". These multi-dimensional approaches which incorporate political, social and economic elements include <sup>19</sup>:

- Reducing poverty and enhancing social protection for particularly vulnerable groups;
- Developing a viable economy with reasonable stability which grows at a sustainable rate that is adequate to improve the material well being of the population and provide more equitable access to employment and other income sources;
- Ensuring the integrity of the natural environment with maximum preservation of air and water quality and conservation of ecosystems and lands; and
- Preservation and strengthening of democracy, by making citizen participation more effective, and by improving the transparency and accountability of Government.

These goals are generally shared by all the Caribbean countries, but the relative priorities vary in each territory <sup>20</sup>.

The Caribbean Development Cooperation Committee (CDCC) has outlined the major guidelines for its 2008-2009 work programmes by area and included:

- Development of a programme of activities and preparation of studies on economic forecasting and modelling;

<sup>16</sup> Report of the 21st Session of CDCC, ECLAC January 2006 p 29

<sup>17</sup> With regard to statistics and social development, the monitoring of progress on the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs), including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, has highlighted weaknesses in data availability for social policy formulation in the Caribbean and there is need for the building of capacities in data systems to better monitor the achievement of the MDGs. Strengthening skills in evidence based planning and programming in the social sector is also an important initiative which must be provided by all governments in the region to enable achievement of social development objectives

<sup>18</sup> Report of the High-Level Ministerial Dialogue- Social Security and Sustainable Social Development in The Caribbean June 2006

<sup>19</sup> Caribbean Group for Cooperation in Economic Development: Towards a Caribbean Vision 2020. pg.6

<sup>20</sup> While the main objective of development in the Caribbean is sustainable poverty reduction, smaller countries place less emphasis on poverty reduction efforts relative to larger countries. The larger countries in the Caribbean tend to view the reduction of poverty and unemployment as the highest priority. In these larger countries more than 15% of their population is below the national poverty lines, with unemployment rates of 13% and significant underemployment. In the case of the smaller islands, poverty is less severe; the Bahamas, Barbados, Antigua and St. Kitts/Nevis have fewer than 15% of their population below their respective national poverty lines, reflecting lower unemployment rates. The priority goals for smaller countries are economic growth and stability. Ibid. pg 6

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- Enhanced publication of the economic survey of the Caribbean;
- A study on structural changes in the Caribbean and linkages between the services sector and other economic activities;
- A study on the costing of the Millennium Development Goals;
- A study on the impact on Caribbean countries of global, hemispheric and regional trade agreements;
- A study on fiscal policy regimens in the Caribbean; and
- A study on objectives, instruments and transmission mechanisms for monetary policy in the Caribbean<sup>21</sup>.

In addition, the UN ECLAC/CDCC Report of the High Level Follow-Up Meeting to the United Nations General Assembly 60th Session 2005, stated the importance of a Social Development Framework for advancing the social and sustainable development of Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS). This draft framework is to act as a strategic guide to comprehensive actions necessary in the medium to short term which would advance the achievement of the MDGs and the sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS.

The framework as outlined in Appendix IV sets out a social development framework for advancing the social and sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS through five priority areas for consideration by policy makers in the social sector:<sup>22</sup>

1. Sustaining investment in human capital
2. Redesigning social integration and inclusion policies
3. Extending social protection and compensation
4. Ensuring evidence-based social protection and provisioning; and
5. Strengthening the enabling environment

Among some of the emerging issues identified for advancing social development was the need to address the issues of children in poverty, the elderly, youth at risk, reducing the risk of natural disasters, ensuring gender equity, strengthening the culture of evidence based policy formulation, increasing partnerships for development and bringing greater social coherence to safety net programming across the region.

The successful implementation of poverty reduction efforts in the Caribbean region will require a strong commitment from, and close partnerships among, all stakeholders—central government, local government, community groups, NGOs, the private sector, labour unions, and the international community. In particular, investments in education and health are essential to improving living standards, and raising skills levels and productivity which will be critical to the competitiveness of Caribbean countries in the global arena. Finally, countries of the Region would also benefit from the successes of their neighbours through increases in horizontal cooperation and the implementation of new social development frameworks and strategies.

21 Ibid pg 15

22 Social Development Framework for advancing the social and sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS ( Annex 1) July 2006

# The National Social Situation

This Chapter will outline broad social development achievements primarily within the context of the activity areas identified in the vision 2020 National Development Plan related to the social development pillars developing innovative people and nurturing a caring society.

According to the Human Development Report 2005, Trinidad and Tobago still qualifies as a country with high human development. The HDI for Trinidad and Tobago has generally displayed minor but steady increase, from 0.75 in 1975 to 0.80 in 2003. While this may be considered commendable, a closer examination of the data points to the need for stringent measures to be adopted to ensure that high human development is truly a defining characteristic of this twin island republic. In 2005, the country placed last in the high human development group, with an HDI rank of 57 as opposed to a rank of 54 in 2004.

It is also important to note that some of the indicators used in this assessment are based on outdated data sources (HDR, 2005:222).<sup>23</sup> This underscores the need for timely data collection so as to ensure that decisive steps can be taken to address the social development needs of the country.

## I. Developing Innovative People

### Education

Since independence education has maintained its position as a primary social development issue in Trinidad and Tobago. Significant investments have been channelled into this sector. Between 1990 and fiscal 2000/2002, public expenditure on education increased from 11.6% to 13.4% as a percentage of total government public expenditure. In fiscal 2000/2002 the percentage of public expenditure was even equivalent or

slightly higher than that spent in several developed countries such as Canada (13.3%), the UK (11.5%), Sweden (12.8%) and Japan (10.5%) (HDR, 2005<sup>24</sup>). The HDR 2004 and 2005 reported an education index of 0.87 and 0.88 respectively for Trinidad and Tobago. In fiscal 2005, 32% of total budgeted allocations for core social sector ministries were apportioned to education (SSIP, 2006).

However, while positive outcomes on this investment have been observed<sup>25</sup>, these successes are in many quarters viewed as insufficient, given the quantum of diverse resources and energies that have been expended to meet national goals in this area (SSIP, 2006). These sentiments are reflected in the Ministry of Education's Education Policy Paper (1993-2003) which notes the following:

**“Our learning systems, over the last two decades have not generated the expected quality of graduates in the proportions which our levels of educational expenditure per pupil have led us to hope for, and it is generally recognized that they do not cater as efficiently as they might for those who are ‘educationally at risk’ broadly speaking, as well as more particularly, for those individuals in our community with special needs.”**

These and other unacceptable conditions<sup>26</sup> are in part explained by the economic circumstances that prevailed in the 1980s which, according to the MOE's Education Policy Paper (1993-2003)<sup>27</sup>,

**“affected adversely, the capital and recurrent provisions for educational development. This has resulted in deterioration of the learning environment in some schools and to a lowering of morale in the teaching service, failure to attract and retain the most qualified graduates into the**

23 Footnote I, states that '[e]stimates are based on outdated census or household survey information..'

24 It should be noted however that the percentage public expenditure on education in Trinidad and Tobago was lower than the expenditure in 2000/02 than several developing Caribbean countries with high human development such as St. Kitts and Nevis (19%), Cuba (18.7%) and Barbados (17.3%). Also, several developed countries spent such as USA (17.1%) and Norway (16.2%) spent a significantly higher proportion of their expenditure on education (HDR, 2005).

25 For example, the HDR (2005) reported an adult illiteracy rate of approximately 1.5% in Trinidad and Tobago. A very small increase was reported for the combined gross enrolment ratio for primary, secondary and tertiary schools, from 64 in 2001/2002 to 66 in 2003.

26 The Social Sector Investment Programme 2006 provides further details on the situation of the education sector given the information currently available.

27 [http://www.nalis.gov.tt/Education/EducPolicy\\_Sum.html](http://www.nalis.gov.tt/Education/EducPolicy_Sum.html)

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teaching service, etc. Moreover these circumstances make it necessary for educational planners to emphasize the importance of improving effectiveness and managing costs in their planning and programming as they seek to achieve the national objectives of equity and efficiency”.

Some of the other factors identified in the Policy Paper as contributing to the residual effects of this situation include: failure to adequately implement critical reforms such as the micro-planning and participatory style of operations, as well as inadequate attention to simultaneously treating with the inter-related variables of access and quality at all levels of the system.

Several initiatives have been developed and implemented in recent times to accelerate efforts to address these issues. The creation of a “seamless education system” as the medium for developing “innovative people” that are “highly skilled and well educated” is the main focus of the vision 2020 efforts. This system will ensure that every citizen regardless of age, experience or social status will be provided with an opportunity to access and benefit from quality education. To achieve this goal, the following strategic priorities were identified for the Ministry of Education in fiscal 2006:

1. Provide accessible quality educational opportunities for all;
2. Deliver quality education to citizens at all levels of the education system;
3. Develop sustainable policy for the education sector;
4. Promote skills development;
5. Continuously align the strategic direction in the education system with the objectives set for National Development; and
6. Expand opportunities for citizens to participate in tertiary and technical education.

In fiscal 2006, the activities conducted to strengthen the pre-primary, primary and secondary education levels included the following:

- **Continuation of the implementation of the Ministry’s Decentralization Plan**

The Government has implemented Local School Boards in all government secondary schools to strengthen the relationship between the school and community. To date Local School Boards (LSB) have been established in all ninety-one (91) government secondary schools. Committees have been established at the level of the schools, educational districts and central administration to manage the implementation of the school development plan and use of grant funds.

- **Development of Quality Standards for the education system**

A Cabinet appointed Committee prepared a Green Paper on Standards for the Operation of all Schools. The objective is that all providers of education in the country would be guided by set standards that would allow for a united and consistent approach in the delivery of education. To date the Ministry of Education has hosted four (4) Public Consultations throughout Trinidad and Tobago to obtain widespread input towards finalization of the document.

A Green Paper on Quality standards for the education system was also prepared and feedback was obtained from the public through the consultative process. The document is being finalized for presentation, along with the Green Paper on Standards for the operation of schools, at a National Consultation in September, 2006. During fiscal 2007 a Quality Assessment Unit will be set up.

Mechanisms are also in place to continuously monitor the quality of education. The Continuous Assessment Programme (CAP) at the primary level is one such mechanism which is administered through the National Test for Standard 1 and 3 students in Mathematics and Language Arts. In 2006, the National Test was administered to 35,416 pupils from Standards 1 and 3 at 549 public and private primary schools. At the secondary level the National Certificate of Secondary Education (NCSE) which was piloted in 2005 in 33 schools was administered to approximately 90 schools in June 2006.

A Reading Intervention Project for Form I students who scored below 30% in the Secondary Entrance Assessment was finalized and approximately 2,400 students benefited from a holiday camp during the July/August 2006 school vacation. The Ministry also seeks to benchmark the performance of the system against international standards. Towards this end, 4,250 Standard 3 students from 149 primary schools across the country participated in Progress in International Reading and Literacy by writing the Literacy Studies examination in March 2006. Once the results have been processed the Ministry will be informed of the students' performance and their overall rank in the world.

- **Development and establishment of modernized curricula at all levels**

Central to a modernized education system is the improvement of curriculum delivery in order to ensure that relevant curricula are implemented at all levels of the system to meet our objective of creating innovative students. Work is in progress on the development of relevant curriculum at the ECCE level while at the primary level revision of the curriculum is to begin shortly. The objective is to ensure that there is proper articulation between the primary and the newly revised secondary school curriculum. Moreover, curricula that are well linked support the creation of a seamless system since it facilitates the smooth transition from one level of the system to another.

The modernized curricula also address the diverse interests and learning needs of students. For example, the Magnet/Specialist School Programme which was piloted in 16 secondary schools in the academic year 2005/2006 affords students greater exposure in one of the selected fields of Business Studies, Visual and Performing Arts, Science, Physical Education, Technology Education and Languages. To date schools have been provided with a budget to support their chosen field of interest. The Ministry intends to expand the programme and a Programme Director is to be hired before the start of the new academic year. A Ministerial Committee was also appointed to review the direction of the programme and has prepared an operational plan for the programme.

Work is ongoing towards the development of a comprehensive framework for the integration of Information Communications Technology (ICT) throughout the Ministry, and all levels of the system. The operations of the ICT Unit will be enhanced through the hiring of a Programme Director, Network Specialist and a Webmaster before the end of 2006. Approximately 133 computers and Internet access were provided to 11 Special Education Schools. The contract was signed last month for provision of hardware and software at 340 primary schools over fiscal 2007.

- **Expansion of the Early Childhood Care and Education Sector**

Under the aegis of the Education Facilities Company Limited, which was established in 2005, 100 Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) centres are to be built over the medium term. Work will be completed on four Centres and started on 16 others by September 2006.

- **Access**

Lands have been identified for the construction of four new secondary schools in Malabar, Mt. Hope, Barataria and Curepe in order to facilitate the de-shifting and conversion of the neighbouring Junior Secondary Schools, thus providing full day education to students who now attend school on a shift basis. Increased access for students wishing to pursue the Caribbean Advanced Proficiency Examination (CAPE) programme will be provided through the construction of two (2) new Sixth Form Colleges.

- **Teacher education and development**

A working Committee was established to review and assess the issues related to teacher education and development. The findings of the Committee brought to the fore a number of issues which are currently being addressed by the Ministry:

- A plan for the professional development of teachers;
- A plan for an integrated system to incorporate existing teachers and graduates of the new teacher education programme;
- Staff development plans for the employees of the Teachers Training Colleges;

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- Teacher assessment; and
- Legal implications for some decisions/actions.

Applications were invited for entry to the pre service 4-year B.Sc. Degree in Teaching offered by the UTT. The Teacher Professional Development Unit will continue to work closely with the MSTTE to ensure that the in-service training needs are met while at the same time will carry out its mandate of addressing the in-service aspect of Teacher Professional Development.

### • International/regional/local co-operation

International and regional co-operative initiatives are supervised by the International Cooperation Initiatives Unit (UICI) which was established to forge new allegiances and partnerships with external agencies at a regional and international level. To date, meetings to discuss strategies for teacher education and professional development have been held with the Inter-American Organisation for Higher Education, College of the Americas (IOHE).

Over the period 2005/2006 some of the major achievements of the unit have been:-

- The hosting of the Fourth Meeting of Ministers of Education in 2005;
- The hosting of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Ministers of Education Conference in 2006; and
- The hosting of the Special Council for Human and Social Development. Meeting of CARICOM Ministers of Education, Member States and representatives of National Aids Authority.

### • Policy

In order to implement effectively its reform agenda the Ministry of Education has, over the recent past and even more significantly over the last year, developed a number of key policies and policy guidelines. These include:

- School Nutrition;
- Drug Abuse Prevention;
- HIV/AIDS Awareness;
- Inclusive Education;

- Governance and Management of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE);
- School Infrastructure;
- Assessment and Examinations;
- Land Management;
- Sixth Form Expansion;
- Information, Communications and Technology (ICT) for the MOE;
- Deshifting and conversion of secondary schools.
- A Policy and Policy Guidelines for a National Curriculum to support a Seamless Education System.
- A framework for a Seamless Education System from ECCE to Adult Education/Lifelong Learning.
- A framework for Pre-Service Teacher Education.

## Tertiary Education, Science, Technology and Innovation

Efforts to expand access to and increase the quality of tertiary education continued and the thrust towards promoting science, technology and innovation (STI) was maintained in fiscal 2006, the focus of the Ministry of Science Technology & Tertiary Education (MSTTE) has been on the rationalization of institutions and programmes. In this regard, emphasis was placed on the following:

- Aligning the activities and responsibilities of tertiary institutions and agencies to the human resource needs of the major sectors as reflected in issues of unemployment, underemployment, labour shortages, deficiencies in skills and competences, productivity and quality;
- Bringing coherence to the Tertiary Education Sector; and
- Establishing and consolidating a more structured system for Science, Technology and Innovation (STI).

In reviewing the achievements for the past fiscal year in relation to the planned targets, the MSTTE has made much progress in key strategic areas including:



- **Accreditation System**

The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago offers five (5) services, namely:

- Registration
- Accreditation
- Quality Enhancement
- Recognition
- Conferment of Institutional Titles.

The major achievements made for fiscal year 2006 are:

- Development of a Strategic Plan for the period 2005 – 2008.
- Development of policies, processes and procedures for ACTT's key functional areas: Registration, Accreditation, Recognition, Conferment of Institutional Title and Quality Enhancement.
- Hosting of stakeholder fora on the role of ACTT and the processes for Registration, Recognition and Accreditation.
- Hosting of the 2nd Annual conference and AGM of the Caribbean Area Network for Quality Assurance in Tertiary Education (CANQATE).
- Establishment of linkages with the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools – The Higher Learning Commission (a regional accrediting body in the United States of America) for information sharing, staff development and support for capacity-building.
- Establishment of a collaborative relationship with the University Council of Jamaica.
- Membership in the International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE).
- Development of a Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NTA and the ACTT on the accreditation of Technical & Vocational Education & Training programmes.
- Launch of an ACTT office in Tobago in May 2006.

- **Quality Assurance**

Institutions such as the University of the West Indies sustained academic quality across the curriculum through continuous

enhancement of programme quality via quality assurance. The first 5-year cycle of the quality assurance review process of all departments was completed and a second cycle began. Course reviews and academic advising workshops are being conducted by the Instructional Development Unit.

COSTATT has its own quality assurance programme. Of the 21 departments currently under the jurisdiction of the College, it is envisaged that at least six departments will have completed the self-study process as step 1 for accreditation by December 2006. The programmes involved are: Business, IT, Nursing, Radiological Sciences, Medical laboratory Technology, Environmental Studies, and Foreign Languages for Business.

- **Access**

Since the period 2001/2002, enrolment at the University of the West Indies has been growing at an average annual rate of 16%. Total enrolment is currently at 14,196 of which 13,138 represent on-campus enrolment. The increase in access has been facilitated by initiatives such as summer programmes and distance education. Total Summer School enrolment has grown from 3240 in 2003 to 5289 in 2005.

The most recent is the Evening University which allows persons to pursue an undergraduate degree solely on a part-time basis. There has been continued growth in postgraduate enrolment. The number of students pursuing graduate programmes on a full-time basis in the academic year 2005/06 is 619, 60% higher than at the start of the current strategic plan period. Enrolment in UWI Distance Education (UWIDEC) programmes (Trinidad & Tobago) has been increasing. There are now 700 students enrolled in such programmes.

For the academic year 2005/2006, the enrolment at the University of Trinidad and Tobago was 1,850 students, a 6% increase over the total of 2004/2005. Additionally, 107 specialised courses, customized programmes and seminars were hosted by UTT. A total of 2,044 persons participated.

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The enrolment at COSTATT for 2005/2006 totalled 3,837 students. The City Campus is operating at almost full capacity. In broadening access, efforts were focused on two (2) areas, namely (i) the academically under-prepared students, (ii) distance education projects.

COSTATT is also in the process of developing a comprehensive College Prep programme which will facilitate a greater number of persons qualifying to enter Universities and other institutions of higher learning.

The Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute more than doubled its intake in its Part-Time Programme in the period, from 90 to 200. This has taken the total enrolment figure from 60 to 600 over the past 10 years. In 2004/2005 the total enrolment was 506 students.

In January 2006, the Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses (GATE) was expanded to make tertiary education more affordable and to increase access to higher education.

The thrust towards increasing access to tertiary education has captured significant public attention. While a thorough assessment of the activities that pertain to this initiative is not yet available, public opinion on one aspect of these activities, namely the formation and establishment of the University of Trinidad and Tobago, can be noted here. According to MORI (2005), "a little over half the public (53%) say they have heard at least a fair amount about the University of Trinidad and Tobago, with one in five (22%) saying they have heard a great deal". These findings have been described as 'very encouraging' given the early stages of development of the University (MORI 2005:43). Few people are opposed to this tertiary level institution (4%). Support for UTT is very high across all sub groups of the population, and especially among those who are substantially aware of its existence: almost seven in ten people (68%) say that they strongly support it being established and a further one in five (18%) report that they tend to support it (MORI 2005:44).

- **Policy**

The existing Green Paper on the National Policy on the

Development of Tertiary Education Training and Distance and Life Long Learning provides a blueprint for the development and expansion of Tertiary Education in Trinidad and Tobago.

Over the past year the Government has worked assiduously to enhance this tertiary education policy and is now at an important phase which requires engagement in a consultative process. To this end, the Government recognizes the invaluable contribution of stakeholders. The public consultations and consequent amendments to the Green Paper are scheduled for September 2006.

The policy will address three critical areas:

- Improving Access through increasing participation.
- Ensuring Relevance and
- Enhancing Quality

The Report on the Establishment of a Seamless Education and Training System was submitted to Cabinet. It is proposed that a Joint Inter-Ministerial Committee be established and consultants be hired to develop the design for the Seamless Education and Training Plan.

A draft National Policy on Biotechnology was prepared.

- **Promoting Science, Technology and Innovation**

Groundwork for the establishment of the National Council on Science Technology and Innovation has been in progress. In order to lay the foundation for the human resource infrastructure of NCOSTI and to support the work of the Council, the following activities were undertaken:

- A Human Resource Study by Price WaterhouseCoopers
- A Draft Intellectual Property Policy
- A profile and detailed database of Trinidad and Tobago nationals working in the USA as highly skilled professionals in STI. This effort is a first step towards accelerating the transfer of technology to the nation by tapping into the human resource pool of the Trinidad and Tobago diaspora. It also serves to highlight the magnitude of the brain drain in STI.

- **Distance Learning and Life Skills Training**

The Distance Learning Secretariat seeks to promote and

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support the development of open and distance learning within Trinidad and Tobago through the establishment and coordination of a National Lifelong Learning System. The work of DLS during the period 2005-2006 concentrated on research and planning for the production and service capacities for a National Distance Lifelong Learning System in the areas of:

- Human resource development
- Infrastructure development
- Material production and standards.

The Baseline Survey was introduced to assess Distance Learning programmes. It consists of two components, namely:

- Nationals enrolled in distance learning programmes
- Tertiary level institutions involved in distance learning and/or cross border education.

In February 2006 a survey of Tertiary Level Institutions (TLIs) was launched. Survey instruments were sent out to 51 organizations. In July, 2006 responses were received from 36 of these institutions. Databases on distance and cross border education in Trinidad and Tobago were established from the data collected. The report should be completed by the end of July, 2006. In March 2006, an invitation was published in the daily newspapers requesting feedback from nationals who participate in Distance Learning Programmes directly with external providers (beyond national boundaries). Eighty-five (85) responses were received as at April 30, 2006. Of these responses 49 were evaluated as true distance learning participants.

The Life Skills Training programme is critical to the holistic development of our target groups undergoing work experience and vocational training. The focus is on curriculum development and training for curriculum implementation such that quality Life Skills training taught by qualified and trained tutors is part of every tertiary education training and work experience programme. Life Skills Development has been taking place at two fronts, namely:

- **The Cabinet Appointed Steering Committee on the Development of a National Curricula for Life Skills**
  - The Life Skills draft curriculum Outlines and Guidelines for tutors were developed. It has six themes for skills development: Intrapersonal Relations; Interpersonal Relations; Communication; Money Management; Employability Skills; Managing the Economic and Physical Environment.
  - The Pilot of the curriculum in 4 institutions will be undertaken in fiscal 2007. Training of the tutors and of the assessors and evaluators will take place with the assistance of the Ministry of Social Development.
  - A draft of the National Life Skills Policy was completed and will be part of the next consultation of stakeholders, along with the curriculum.
- **The Life Skills Unit of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education**
  - Meetings are held with the National Training Agency (NTA) to discuss the Life Skills portfolio for TTNVQ unit awards, so that the suggestions by employers for this type of programme to be taken seriously can be met.
  - The Unit has been collaborating with the Retraining Unit in developing a draft Life Skills curriculum specially designed for the inmates to provide re-entry life skills, to be used in the training, implementation and evaluation processes.
  - In the period January to June, 2006 monthly training workshops on train the trainer were held. These focused on Portfolio development and addressed the Life Skills themes and their implementation through interactive strategies. Tutors were involved in action research and social action projects with their trainees or their community and presented their work in a conference in June 2006.
  - The Distance Education Unit and the Life Skills Unit are collaborating to prepare Life Skills materials and strategies for dissemination through distance education modes.

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- **Science Popularization**

Science popularization is delivered at two levels, namely the:

### I. Non-formal Education Programmes

For the fiscal period 2005-2006 several activities were undertaken. One of the more popular ones was the Science Whizz Competition sponsored by the National Gas Company. Sci-Whizz, now in its 8th year, is an annual competition that seeks to promote innovative methods of teaching scientific concepts capitalizing on showmanship and audience engagement has attracted approximately 1000 entrants to date and has grown in popularity and quality of entries over the year, so much so that it has resulted in a television programme on the best entries. For 2005/2006 there were 143 entrants with 24 schools participating.

### II. Formal Education Programmes

The Formal Education Programmes are those that support the formal science and mathematics teaching and learning. Some significant programmes which were undertaken during the fiscal period are:

- **Caribbean Youth Science Forum (CYSF) 2006**

NIHERST, through the Science Centre hosted the 5th Caribbean Youth Science Forum at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine Campus. Participation has doubled since CYSF was first launched in 1999 with OAS support. In 2006, 246 students from 9 countries attended the forum from July 30 to August 06. Continued growth is envisaged in 2007 with participation anticipated from 13 Caribbean countries.

- **Making Maths Easy Grants Scheme**

The focus in this area is on achieving improvements in math education through the development and use of more innovative resource materials. A NIHERST survey cited poor teaching materials as a key obstacle to the improvement of math education in the country and a major cause of high failure rates. In 2005/2006, the Making Math Easy Grant Scheme was launched to address this problem but with the initial focus on primary math education. The scheme provides small grant incentives for the classroom teachers to develop more stimulating and innovative student-centred teaching

aids. At the end of 2005, 3 applicants were awarded grants for developing projects on measurements, statistics and geometry.

- **Gayelle 1-minute Science News**

NIHERST is in the process of developing a one minute science news clips for Gayelle the Channel. It is still in the pre-production stage. The focus will be on:

- Icons in Science and Technology
- Technology news
- General topics in science.

In fiscal 2005/2006, the Science Communications Unit of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education undertook several projects. Of significance were the completion of two major series, Gene Scene and Natural Wonders of the Caribbean. Gene Scene is a five part series which looks at the applications of biotechnology in medicine, food, environmental management and criminal investigations, and the relevant safety and policy issues.

In addition NIHERST developed with the support of CCST and UNESCO a television series entitled "Natural Wonders of the Caribbean". It educates on karst landscapes, rainforests, waterfalls, mangrove swamps and coral reefs. The series was well received by viewers and repeatedly aired on local and regional stations thus reaching over 100,000 persons. An accompanying poster exhibition was also produced and launched on World Environmental Day.

## II. Nurturing a Caring Society

### Poverty Reduction and an Efficient Social Services Delivery System

Poverty remains a critical concern to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. In a survey conducted in 2005, approximately 25% of the respondents identified poverty as the most important issue facing the nation, which is 7% more than the persons highlighting this issue in 2004 (MORI, 2005: 11). The most recent poverty statistics puts the level of poverty

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at 24% with approximately 8.3% of the population being indigent or suffering from hunger<sup>28</sup>. Approximately 28.9% of the poor are young people (SSIP, 2004). Significant inequity exists as is evinced by a GINI index of approximately 40.3 for the country<sup>29</sup>.

The 'lack of a clear and coherent policy agenda and operative institutional framework for poverty reduction'<sup>30</sup> has long been identified as the underlying factors that have contributed to this unacceptable level of deprivation in this middle-income country. The European Union Sponsored Poverty Reduction Programme (PRP) is the main initiative that has been developed to correct these critical issues, with its principal objective being 'to contribute to the reduction of poverty in Trinidad and Tobago' by supporting the GORTT 'in formulating and implementing a National Poverty Reduction Strategy that is more responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable groups of the population'<sup>31</sup>.

The PRP officially commenced in 2001 with the signing of the Financing Agreement between the European Union and Trinidad and Tobago. It is comprised of three components: 1) improvement of the delivery of poverty reduction services; 2) strengthening of the institutional framework for poverty reduction and 3) strengthening of the information system on poverty and poverty reduction programmes (please see Box I below).

Initially, the project completion date was set as June 30, 2007. However, in the Mid-term Evaluation of the EU Sponsored Poverty Reduction Programme it was recommended that the planned completion date be extended to June 2008 so as to ensure that all the remaining planned outputs of the PRP are realised, especially the projects under the Regional Micro Project Funds (HTSPE, 2006:9). Box II provides some information on the assessment of the impact of the outputs of the PRP as outlined in the Mid-Term Review.

28 Kairi, 2003.

29 The GINI coefficient was based on a 1992 survey (HDR, 2005).

30 European Union Poverty Reduction Midterm Review Final Report 2006/1 | 6573

31 Ibid.

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### BOX I: Description and Status of EU Poverty Reduction Programme

#### Component 1 Improvement of the delivery of poverty reduction services

According to the Financing Agreement, this component is to be comprised of:

- a 2 000 000 regional micro-project fund (RMPF) which is established and administered at the regional level by the Regional Social Human Development Councils (RSHDCs).
- a 800 000 micro credit fund (MCF)
- a network of information and resource centres to support the identification and the mobilisation of local intervening entities

By the end of April 2006, 58 micro projects were approved at a cost of \$1,377,346 (10% of the total \$14,000,000). A further 18 projects at a total cost of \$400,850 (4% of total RMPF funds) were approved by the RSHDCs and were with the Project Management Unit (PMU). Another 70-80 projects were at the concept stage having been developed by the Civil Society Networks and with the Regional Coordinators.

The establishment of an operational MCF is under review.

#### Component 2 Strengthening of the institutional framework for poverty reduction

This component was set up to strengthen the technical and organisational capacities of what is now the Programme Management Unit (PMU). The PMU technically supports the RSHDCs through training and advice, and reviews government budget and investment programmes for their "poverty content and orientation".

As of April 2006, fifteen RSHDCs were established with 15 associated Project Implementation Units (PIUs).

#### Component 3 Strengthening of the information system on poverty and poverty reduction programmes

This component seeks to improve the availability of and the access to information on poverty. The programme assists with the creation of a data bank on poverty, managed by the Central Statistical Office (CSO). In 2005, a Survey of Living Conditions was undertaken. The analysis of the data and preparation of the final Report will be completed early in the new fiscal year. Regular national and regional poverty analyses are to be undertaken, coordinated by the PMU. Availability and access to information on poverty reduction programmes and partnerships are to be improved through the establishment of a web hub with connections to the RSHDCs.

(Information adapted from the Poverty Reduction Midterm Review Final Report 2006/116573 by HTSPE Limited)



### BOX II: Assessment of the Impact of the Outputs of the European Union Poverty Reduction Programme

The Mid-Term Review provided the following assessment of the impact of the outputs of the PRP:

- The Regional Social and Human Development Councils (RSHDCs) have begun to demonstrate the potential of such a framework for a decentralised system for delivery of social services;
- The impact of the Civil Society Networks (CSNs) so far is limited. Any assessment is difficult as they vary in strength, status of establishment and many are still weak or only just beginning to be set up. With considerable institutional strengthening and capacity building, the CSNs have the possibility of bringing community level bodies together. They can fulfil a useful role in a more decentralised framework of being a two way conduit for information between the community and the RSHDCs;
- It was evident from consultations with CSNs, community organizations and RSHDCs that considerable work still needs to be done to strengthen the CSNs if their potential impact is to be realised;
- Projects under the Regional Micro Project Fund (RMPF) can meet the specific needs of communities but these are so far limited in number. If the number of projects can be accelerated and increased to some 500 from its current 56 then the impact of the RMPF can be broader. The projects under the RMPF are a catalyst to show that the decentralised system and framework for RSHDCs and CSNs developed under PRP can actually work. This can assist the Ministry of Social Development and other Ministries in the plans to decentralise services as part of the wider decentralisation process for local government;
- Poverty data and especially the Survey of Living Conditions is needed urgently as a basis for development of a strategy on poverty reduction by key Ministries.

(Information adapted from the Poverty Reduction Midterm Review Final Report 2006/116573 by HTSPE Ltd.)

An efficient social services delivery system is vital for achieving all of the nation's social development targets and requirements. As noted in the SSIP (2006:20) "the level of poverty that now exists is in part a function of the institutional base of the country in the delivery of social services ..."<sup>32</sup>.

As is evident in Box II above, the EU Poverty Reduction Programme seeks to address this deficiency. This is highlighted at item 4 where the thrust towards the decentralization of the social services delivery system is mentioned.

Approval was granted by Cabinet in 1993 for the restructuring of the existing system of the delivery of social services. The new system of decentralization developed by the Ministry of Social Development focuses on four main areas:

- Institution of appropriate supervisory mechanisms
- Diagnosis of needs of individuals, households and communities
- Delivery of services within communities
- Strategy for effective collaboration

<sup>32</sup> The need for the expeditious completion of the decentralization efforts is in part authenticated by a recent opinion survey which highlights the inefficiencies that presently obtain. The findings revealed that approximately half of the respondents viewed the public services (of which the social services delivery system is a component) as providing poor service, and four in ten (39%) described it as unsatisfactory. The highest placed positive attribute is hardworking which is fifth placed (selected by 26% of the interviewees) (MORI, 2005:24). Only a minority of respondents (5%) viewed the public service as providing good value for money. Only 9% of respondents described the public services as honest (9%), while only 6% described it as open (6%) (MORI, 2005:24).

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In particular, the supervisory mechanism required to operationalize the new system would be embodied in what is referred to as the National Agency. The Agency will be responsible for coordinating the activities and monitoring the delivery of social services and programmes to individuals and families in communities by Fourteen (14) Regional Offices of this Agency. The National Agency will be governed by a Board and will report on the activities of the Agency and its Regional Offices to the Minister of Social Development.

To ensure effective collaboration the Board will be comprised of representatives from the Regional Social and Human Development Councils (RSHDCs), the key Social Sector Ministries, the Ministry of Finance, NGOs and other relevant stakeholders. The Board will oversee all aspects of the vertical and horizontal flows throughout the structure, and will review and make recommendations on all aspects of the system to the Minister of Social Development.

The Regional Offices will be responsible for the coordination, execution and the monitoring and evaluation of projects and programmes and the delivery of services by governmental, non-governmental and other agencies within their respective region. A grid system will be developed within each of the 14 regions to allow for effective targeting of interventions based on the peculiar needs of individuals and communities. Specifically, each region will be sub-divided into grids based on factors such as population density, number of households and social and economic activity.

The diagnostic approach that will be utilized by this system will ensure the accurate assessment of the needs of clients and the identification of the services that are specifically required by clients as individuals and families. The work to be performed at the diagnostic level will be conducted by Generic Social Workers. A Generic Social Worker will be assigned to each element of the grid and would be directly responsible for identifying needs, and the likely requirements for treating with the needs of individuals and families in the communities in which they serve.

The Generic Social Workers will refer clients to specialized social workers or the relevant Governmental or non-governmental organization, private agencies or contracted professional offering the requisite service. In particular, the Government Information System (GIS), developed by the Central Statistical Office, would be used to generate information on each household within the community. The delivery element of the system will fall within four (4) main groupings, namely: i) Preventative; ii) Remedial; iii) Supportive and; iv) Developmental.

The Regional Offices will also have a role to play in facilitating effective collaboration among stakeholders. These offices will collaborate with Governmental Departments, the RSHDCs and NGOs within their respective grid to assist with needs analysis. Collaboration will also take place with an NGO Unit to be established within the National Agency. The Unit will assist with identifying suitable NGOs to implement social programming and will assist with the monitoring and evaluation of social programmes/projects. Additionally, effective collaboration will be achieved through networking and functional linkages throughout the system. As a result, a Wide Area Network and a Common Data interface will both support the creation, access and sharing of data amongst regions.

In fiscal 2006, approval was obtained to recruit an expert and establish a Support Unit to implement the Plan for decentralization of the delivery of services to communities. Some of the responsibilities of the expert are:

- To develop and implement a plan for the introduction of the new system
- To establish mechanisms for collaboration among partners for effective and efficient functioning of the new system for its sustainability
- To facilitate the establishment of the institutional, infrastructural, legal and administrative structures necessary for operationalizing the new system
- To assist with the development and implementation of a specific programme of public education and information with respect to the new system

- To develop and implement appropriate management systems for the on-going implementation

The Monitoring and Evaluation of the various social interventions which exist is also a key determinant of an effective social services system. During fiscal 2006 the Ministry of Social Development continued the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Policy for the social sector which was approved by Cabinet in June 2005. The overall goal of this policy is to establish common structures and standards that would govern the application of effective monitoring and evaluation systems in the social sector; thereby facilitating the attainment of maximum benefits from social interventions. The objectives of this policy are:

- To promote the effective and efficient deployment of resources by Government for the provision of social services to targeted populations in Trinidad and Tobago;
- To facilitate accountability at all management levels in the provision of social services;
- To facilitate the utilization of reliable, timely and relevant information for the development of social policy and social programme initiatives;
- To disseminate best practice findings for improved project and programme performance;
- To strengthen evaluation capacity; and
- To standardize processes and procedures used to monitor and evaluate social interventions.

The achievements of the implementation of the policy include the completion of profiles for all social sector interventions and the conduct of a Project Unit Load Analysis by Ministries to determine Monitoring and Evaluation staff needs of each Ministry. In fiscal 2006 Cabinet approved the appointment of a Monitoring and Evaluation Facilitators Committee. This committee consists of representatives of the key social sector Ministries, chaired by the Ministry of Social Development. The main function of this committee is to support the implementation of the Policy and to assist in the promotion of a culture of Monitoring and Evaluation in the social sector.

Another critical aspect of poverty alleviation and an efficient social service delivery system is the fostering of effective

partnerships for sustainable development. Government has long recognized that it cannot single-handedly address the myriad of social problems in the society and over the years has provided support to civil society agencies to undertake social programmes and projects.

The delivery of particular social services in the country is carried out to a large extent by the Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) across the country. This approach ensures there is wider coverage of the delivery aspect to the national community. The financial support offered by Government to NGOs assist them in meeting the recurrent expenditure associated with the provision of social services. The support is channelled to the NGOs from key social sector Ministries.

The main Ministries through which support is provided include the Ministries of Education, Health and Sport and Youth Affairs, and the Ministry of Social Development. The Tobago House of Assembly's Department of Health and Social Services is also involved in the provision of financial support to NGOs.

Government continued to provide critical financial support to the NGO sector in fiscal 2006. Budgeted allocations to the sector rose from \$95,373,203.00 in fiscal 2005 to \$148,989,848.00 in fiscal 2006. This represents an increase of \$53,616,639.00 or (56%) from the 2005 figure.

A few organizations also received substantial increases in funding from Government which enabled them to implement their social sector programmes. Increases in Government allocations and the provision of new subventions to NGOs during the 2006 fiscal year were primarily to those NGOs which address issues pertaining to the family, children, youth, persons with disabilities, ex-prisoners and health within Trinidad and Tobago.

The main beneficiaries were the Trinidad and Tobago Association for the Blind; the Trinidad and Tobago Association for the Hearing Impaired; St Dominic's Children's Home, St Mary's Children's Home, St Michael's School for Boys, The Princess Elizabeth Home for Handicapped Children,

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Vision and Mission, Petheron Trust for Girls and Young Women, the National Centre for Persons with Disabilities and Disabled Persons International, the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT), Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation and the Tobago Youth Council. In the health sector, total subventions increased from \$16,526,580.00 to \$17,703,402.00 in 2006.

In terms of youth, allocations for the Youth Councils were again provided for in fiscal year 2006. One hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) was provided for the Trinidad Youth Council and sixty thousand (\$60,000.00) for the Tobago Youth Council.

Further details of the individual subventions and grants which were provided to Non-Governmental Organisations in fiscal 2006 are listed in **Appendices V and VI**.

### • Full Employment

Trinidad and Tobago is currently described in some quarters as 'experiencing an energy boom stronger than the ones in [the] 1970s and 1980s', which 'constitutes a unique opportunity for policy makers to set in motion a virtuous cycle of growth and development'<sup>33</sup> or even more optimistically as benefiting from an "economic upturn.... [that is] by no means temporary"<sup>34</sup>. Consistent with this economic windfall, between 2000 and 2004, the labour force participation rate in Trinidad and Tobago has increased from 61.2% to 63.0%, while the unemployment rate has decreased from 12.15% to 8.3%<sup>35</sup> as seen in Table I. Ideally, these positive developments should auger well for poverty reduction efforts, but this is dependent on prudent financial planning and development strategies<sup>36</sup>.

**Table I: Labour Market Conditions in Trinidad and Tobago**

Indicator	2000	2004	Increase
Labour Force	572,900	613,400	40,500
Participation Rate	61.2%	63.0%	1.8%
Male Participation Rate	75.3%	75.2%	(0.1%)
Female Participation Rate	47.0%	50.8%	3.8%
Employed Persons	503,400	562,300	58,900
Unemployment Rate	12.1%	8.3%	(3.8%)
Male Unemployment Rate	10.2%	6.4%	(3.8%)
Female Unemployment Rate	15.2%	11.2%	(4.0%)

Source: Central Statistical Office

33 Velculescu and Rizavi, 2006. <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2005/wp05197.pdf>.

34 Honourable Prime Minister Patrick Manning (The Daily Express 28th August 2006, p. 9).

35 The unemployment rate fell from 7.8% in 4th quarter 2004 to 6.7 in 4th quarter 2005. 6.1% of the labour force was unemployed in the 4th quarter of 2004 while 4.9% of the labour force was unemployed in the 4th quarter of 2005.

36 Warner (2004:2) notes that while there is substantial evidence showing that growth does not invariably reduce poverty, "there are many cases where the two go hand in hand, and many where growth improves the relative position of the poor". <http://www.wider.unu.edu/conference/conference-2005-3/conference-2005-3-papers/Warner.pdf>.

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Other market factors that serve as important determinants for ensuring the positive nexus between economic growth and poverty reduction include: a rise in the average wage within sectors; employment shifts from low to high wage sectors; and, a rise in profits per employed person (Warner, 2004). Statistical data must be collected on these and other relevant indicators to inform the development of strategic initiatives for reducing poverty levels and increasing the numbers of persons engaged in sustainable livelihoods<sup>37</sup>

Issues such as gender inequity in the labour force must be addressed. Though the unemployment rate for both sexes in Trinidad and Tobago has consistently declined over the last decade and has reached its lowest in the second quarter 2004, as is evident from Table I above, the female labour force participation rate remains significantly lower than that for males. Withdrawal from the labour market for 'family reasons' in part explains the relatively low participation rates for women during the reproductive ages (15 – 49 years) or declines in participation before the retirement years (CARICOM 2003: 84)<sup>38</sup>. The unavailability of data on participation rates in informal activities such as street and market vending, food preparation and preservation precludes an accurate understanding of income-earning activities by gender and other variables.

To treat with these specific issues and ensure the fulfilment of the vision 2020 goal of "full employment in decent jobs and positive work environments for the citizenry" (NSP, 2006), a National Committee to Develop an Employment Policy for Trinidad and Tobago was appointed in March 2005 by the Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development. The mandate of the Committee is to:

- Examine those issues which affect both decent work and the development and engagement of people in the productive process. These issues included:
  - Unemployment
  - Underemployment
  - Long term unemployment

- Unemployment of vulnerable groups (youth, women, the disabled etc.)
- Productivity
- Labour mobility
- Social security portability and adequacy
- Conditions of work
- Declining labour force
- Labour market legislative and institutional framework
- Future needs of an efficient and effectively functioning labour market

- Prepare a Report in respect of the issues outlined, including recommendations to treat with the problems identified;
- Develop in light of the findings of the Committee, and in consultation with stakeholders, an Employment Policy for Trinidad and Tobago;
- Develop a Plan for Action for the implementation of the Employment Policy;
- Identify immediate actions, which could be taken by Government to facilitate the development and engagement of the nation's human resources in competitive, productive processes while ensuring a balance with decent working conditions.

The Committee completed and submitted its final Report to the Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development in the last quarter of fiscal 2006. The following trends and recommendations have been identified by the Committee based on their assessment of the employment situation in Trinidad and Tobago:

- Constraints to full employment in Trinidad and Tobago include price stability, productivity levels and levels of international competitiveness. In these circumstances, it appears that an unemployment rate of 7-8% may be considered full employment in the case of Trinidad and Tobago;
- Employment creation should be a key goal of the government. This should be done directly through the

<sup>37</sup> Data on these three factors are less readily available than information on labour force participation (Warner, 2004, p.15)

<sup>38</sup> Women and Men in CARICOM Member States: Power and Decision Making (1980 – 2002). [www.caricomstats.org/pdmpub.html](http://www.caricomstats.org/pdmpub.html)

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development of infrastructure that will allow the private sector to grow;

- Training at the national level should be synchronized with the needs signalled by the private sector. There may be a need to change the contents and structure of the education system;
- The energy sector, while playing an important role in terms of its contribution to GDP, has not been an important generator of employment;
- Good prospects for growth include the agriculture and construction sectors while the energy sector is not expected to generate ordinary jobs but instead some high-tech and professional jobs. Small and micro enterprises and the tourism sector present excellent opportunities for employment generation;
- There exists the possibility of transforming the informal sector from one of low earnings to one of high earnings through, among other things, training in management skills and assistance in procurement.

### • Income and Social Protection

An efficient economy and effective system of social protection creates a stable society. Social security provides the members of society with protection against “the economic and social distress that would otherwise be caused by the stoppage or substantial reduction of earnings resulting from sickness, maternity, employment injury, unemployment, invalidity, old age and death; the provision of subsidies for families with children” (ILO, 1984)<sup>39</sup>. It follows therefore that the Vision 2020 goal for social security in Trinidad and Tobago is, ‘to ensure that pensions maintain the dignity of the old as well as support the cost of ageing’ (NSP, p 156).

The demographic trend for Trinidad and Tobago show a decline in fertility rates, an increase in life expectancy and recent changes in family structure towards less intra-family support for retired members. Consequently, Government must ensure that adequate systems are in place to address issues of an ageing population. Inaction in this regard could create economic and social problems.

Presently the Government addresses the economic needs of retired persons through the Old Age Pension Benefit (OAP), the National Insurance System (NIS) and the Occupational and Individual Pension Plan and Savings.

The National Insurance Board of Trinidad and Tobago (NIBTT) plays a key role in the national social protection system by delivering timely benefit payments, contributing to the country’s development through its investment portfolio, and participating in government initiatives through representation on numerous committees. The NIBTT continues to make its contribution to the formulation of wider social policy through its participation in the work of various bodies, specifically: the “Labour and Social Security Sub-Committee” of Government’s Vision 2020 Committee; the Cabinet –Appointed Working Group on Pension Reform; and the Government-appointed Steering Committee to oversee the development of a National Health Insurance System.

The momentum of the changes consequent to the implementation of the recommendations of the Sixth Actuarial Review in Financial Year 2004/05 continued into 2005/06. This was manifested in improved coverage of the working population as measured by the number of active employers and the number of insured employees. The former category rose from 15,442 in 2005 to 16,618 in 2006 that is by 7.6%, while the number of insured employees increased from 400,202 in 2005 to 436,209 in 2006 or by 9%.

The changes have also resulted in increased benefit expenditure which rose by 6.2 % from \$943million to \$1,001million that is, which means that for the first time benefit payments crossed the billion dollar mark. These payments were spread among a total of 127,387 beneficiaries. Of these, 100,023 were Long Term Beneficiaries comprising: 63,494 Retirement, 31,687 Survivors, and 4,842 Invalidity pensioners.

Through the investment of surplus funds, the NIBTT continues to contribute to the nation’s social security in the broader sense of the term. Investment in Government securities

39 Cited in the Report of the Vision 2020 Labor and Social Security Committee.



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amounted to \$ 3.6 billion, and investment in corporate bonds amounted to \$2.2 billion during the financial year; thus providing critical financing for economic expansion.

During fiscal 2005/06 the 7th Actuarial Review began. This review is undertaken every five years and subjects the NIS to a thoroughgoing actuarial and financial assessment to ensure its long-term financial viability. The Reviews recommended modifications that position the NIS to become an even more effective and efficient mechanism for providing social insurance protection to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. The 7th Actuarial Review, included data collection, consultations with major stakeholders and data review, assisted by international experts. The specific objectives of the Review are, inter alia to:

- o Conduct an actuarial assessment of the solvency of the National Insurance System
- o Project the financial condition of the System throughout the medium to long-term given the prevailing and expected economic, social, demographic and financial trends
- o Identify any areas which may impact on the NIBTT's ability to fulfil its obligations
- o Analyze the effects of possible changes to the current structure of benefit rates, contribution rates, earnings classes, earnings ceiling and full/partial indexation
- o Recommend changes to the National Insurance System in accordance with NIBTT's social insurance policy, strategic objectives and stakeholder requirements

The current Pension Reform Initiative which is under the purview of the Ministry of Finance has as its main objective the modernization of the Pension Regime in Trinidad and Tobago. The principal strategies are to:

- o Establish a modern Legal and Regulatory Framework governing the Pension Industry in Trinidad and Tobago;
- o Develop and Implement a modern contributory occupational pension plan for the Public Service; and
- o Harmonize and integrate the Old Age Pension and the National Insurance System.

Steps towards this Pension Reform are:

- (i.) Develop the New Legal and Regulatory Framework for the Pension Industry- Draft guidelines are currently being reviewed by the Central Bank and the Pension Reform Committee;
- (ii.) Reform of the Public Service Pension Regime- The new approach to the exercise breaks up the consultancy into two smaller packages. One package would entail the development of a funded contributory Occupational Pension Plan, and the quantification of Government's pension liability; while the other will address the Administrative Mechanism for the proposed new Pension Plan;
- (iii.) Harmonize and Integrate the OAP and NIS - The way forward with respect to the Harmonization and Administrative Integration of the OAP and the NIS is under discussion between the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Social Development; and
- (iv.) Upgrade and Modernize the NIS- This exercise is dependent upon completion of the seventh (7th) Actuarial Review of the NIS, by the ILO, and the recommendations emanating there from. The Seventh Review is expected to be completed by September 2006. Any upgrade of the NIS is not expected before mid-2007.

### • Health Care, Wellness and Lifestyles

Health is a pillar of any developing nation that must be addressed in order for it to achieve its full potential. The quality of a nation's health care services is a key indicator of the wellbeing of its people. In all the MORI reports, one of the top five issues that the population has expressed concern about has been the health services. This is evident in the percentage expressing health as a major concern (MORI 2005: 11) in which there was an increase from 28% to 32% between 2004 and 2005. According to the MORI 2005 Report, public health facilities are used more often than private facilities, with twice as many people having been treated at a public health centre

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than a private health centre (35% to 17%) and three times as many having been treated at a public hospital than a private hospital (30% to 9%) (MORI 2005: 35).

It must be noted that more of the public are satisfied than dissatisfied with public health centres (+36% net satisfied<sup>40</sup>) and hospitals (+4%). Over half of the users of private health centres (55%) and private hospitals (58%) are very satisfied with the quality of service provided, whereas only one in three users of public health centres and one in four users of public hospitals are very satisfied. However within this there are quite sizeable groups within the public who are dissatisfied- particularly the 24% who say they are very dissatisfied with public hospitals.

In spite of these grim statistics, in terms of expectations for the future, three times as many people (63%) believe that the state of the health service will get better over the next few years than believe it will get worse (19%). One in three people (33%) expect it to get much better. This gives a "net better" score of +44% (MORI 2005:38).

Another important factor is access to health services. In a recent ECLAC Report it was stated that "Access to health is a key component of economic and social rights. Achieving this gives citizens a stronger sense of protection and belonging to the community."<sup>41</sup> One of the nation's main experts on health economics noted in a paper presented at a high-level meeting on Social Security and Sustainable Social Development in the Caribbean, held in the region in June 2006,<sup>42</sup> that the three (3) basic concerns of the health services are "what services to make available, how to deliver the services, how to finance the services." He concluded that the mandate of the health system therefore remains:

- Providing quality services in a manner that is affordable;
- Providing health services in a manner which does not compromise the dignity of the individuals needing them; and

- Ensuring that income does not remain a barrier to accessing services when needed.

In fiscal 2006 the Ministry of Health made strides in improving health care service by remaining focused on the goal of creating a health service that will ensure citizens can enjoy long and healthy lives. Over the last fiscal year a number of critical initiatives have begun to be implemented, to provide an enabling environment for achieving the Ministry's stated goals. One of the main initiatives which took place during fiscal 2006 was the launch of the Ministry's website ([www.health.gov.tt](http://www.health.gov.tt)).

The National Organ Transplant Unit under the National Organ Transplant Programme was established at Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex where the first live kidney transplant was successfully performed. This programme is governed by the Tissue Transplant Act 2000 and its Regulations which allows for transplants from non-relative donors through donations of tissue before and after death. The Ministry has set up a technical and ethics committee to advise on matters concerning transplants, develop treatment and protocols. The programme will be located at the National Oncology Centre which is projected to be opened in May 2007.

The Ministry is also focused on addressing the leading causes of illness and death, with emphasis on the management and control of chronic and lifestyle diseases. In a recent Report of the Caribbean Commission on Health and Development it was stated that "Deaths from stroke, heart disease and hypertension, at least in Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, are three to four times more common than in North America. [and] ....Diabetes has emerged as a major problem and must now be regarded as an epidemic in the region." One of the major recommendations of the Report was the need to orient health systems towards lifestyles that reduce morbidity. The expansion of the Chronic Disease Assistance Programme to provide universal coverage to persons suffering from eleven (11) diseases and in need of drugs has already been undertaken.

40 Net satisfaction – subtracting the percentage who are dissatisfied from percentage of those who are satisfied with each service (MORI 2005).

41 ECLAC 31st Session Shaping the Future of Social Protection, pg. 73.

42 "Approaches to Health Sector Reform vis-a-vis the Epidemiological Transition in the Caribbean: Policy Implications, Challenges and Opportunities- An Economist's Perspective" by Karl Theodore.

## The National Social Situation

These diseases are namely, diabetes, hypertension, glaucoma, cardiac disease, asthma, depression, enlarged prostate, arthritis, acid reflux, Parkinson disease, and epilepsy.

Over the period 2006-2007 the remaining backlog of surgeries and waiting time for elective surgery in the country is to be further reduced through the Surgical Waiting List Initiative. Significant inroads have been made in the reduction of waiting lists for cataract, orthopedic and certain gynecological surgeries. The waiting list for hernias has been eliminated and is now down to same day surgery. Reduction of waiting lists in other areas such as plastic surgery and vitreo-retinal surgery are being addressed.

The development of the National Oncology Programme which seeks to address the high morbidity and mortality rates caused by cancer is in process. The programme has a holistic approach to cancer care with prevention, screening, education, home care, and palliation and treatment aspects. This programme will also be located at the National Oncology Centre.

The Ministry of Health remains focused on achieving the goal of creating a health service that will set new standards of health care in the region, and ensure that our citizens can enjoy long and healthy lives.

Trinidad and Tobago has always been challenged by Communicable Diseases, such as: Acute Respiratory Infections, Gastroenteritis, Tuberculosis, Dengue, HIV/AIDS, emerging infectious diseases such as the Avian Flu, and by Non-Communicable Diseases such as Heart disease, Diabetes Mellitus, Malignant neoplasms (Cancers), and Cerebrovascular disease. Over the last decade, Injuries and Violence has also emerged as a significant and increasing cause for concern as they now account for high levels of morbidity and mortality.

On March 14th 2006, the Global Medical Response of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (GMRTT) in conjunction with the Ministry of Health officially launched its services thereby transforming the emergency medical infrastructure in this

country. The launch of this emergency service has been an important initiative of the Ministry of Health in an effort to improve the level of efficiency in responding to emergency calls.

Medical services were also expanded at the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex to provide free coverage for public health patients referred to by other public health institutions. This intervention enabled an increase of 500% of patient flow through the institution.

On 11th July 2006, the Guayagayare Health Outreach Centre was opened to the people living in this area. The Centre will provide primary health care and is equipped with a Wellness Centre, which will promote healthy lifestyles and provide counselling sessions and workshops on health related issues.

The HIV/AIDS pandemic has impacted on the way of life in Trinidad and Tobago, with a cumulative total from 1983 to the first quarter of 2006 being 16,304 HIV positive cases, 5,533 AIDS cases, with 3,379 deaths due to AIDS. There were 336 newly reported HIV positive persons for all age groups in the first quarter of 2006. However the Government's development of the Five Year National Strategic Plan 2004-2008, which is coordinated and monitored by the National AIDS Coordinating Committee (NACC), has been reporting some success in the fight against HIV/AIDS. These figures have been reported by the NACC and are based on sentinel reports produced by the National Surveillance Unit, Ministry of Health:

- From 1996 to 2005 AIDS mortality has decreased by 60%;
- From 2001 to 2005 there was a 48% decrease in reported AIDS cases; and
- There was a 16% decrease in reported new HIV cases from 2003 to 2005.
- As at the end of January 2006, 3,204 persons were on treatment and care with 1,760 persons on specific anti-retroviral treatment.

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The factors that contributed to the above include:

- Increased commitment to the response at all levels of society, including at the highest levels of Government;
- The mobilization of financial, technical and human resources;
- Strong Public-Private partnerships and capacity-building with the NGOs;
- Improved facilitation and coordination across all sectors; and

During fiscal 2006 other major HIV/AIDS initiatives undertaken include:

- The establishment of Voluntary Counselling and Testing Centres by the Ministry of Health at the George Street Health Centre, the Arima Health Facility and the Success Laventille Health Facility, in keeping with MOH's Five Year National Strategic Plan for the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS;
- The conduct of education and awareness campaigns such as the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial and a series of audio and video ads to brand and increase recall of the Prevention and anti-stigma messages;
- Activities to improve the availability and accessibility of condoms;
- Behaviour change interventions for the general population and vulnerable groups such as prisoners;
- Activities for the implementation of a National System for the Clinical Management and Treatment of HIV and AIDS;
- Activities for the provision of appropriate economic and social support to the PLWHA and to the affected;
- The finalization of a draft HIV/AIDS Code of Practice for the public sector;
- The implementation of measures to develop AIDS Coordinating Units within nine (9) government Ministries/Departments;

- The adoption of strategic steps for improving the existing surveillance system of the MOH with respect to STI/HIV/AIDS. A contract was awarded to the University of the West Indies to undertake a Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behaviour (KAPB) Survey of the general population which was due to commence in fiscal 2006.

The Ministry of Social Development hosted the 2nd Caribbean Summit on Children and HIV/AIDS during November, 2005. The theme was "Keeping the Promise-Putting Children First" and included 200 participants, including representatives from many CARICOM countries.

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs conducted Youth Health Caravans in communities throughout Trinidad to bring the message of education on HIV/AIDS to young people. The Ministry also partnered with the Trinidad and Tobago Youth Councils and the World Assembly of Youth to host the Caribbean Youth Dialogue with the theme 'Feel, Know, Fight, Love – the Youth Response.' The outcome of this dialogue will be the development of a National Youth Response on HIV/AIDS documenting young people's role in the reduction of the rate of infection among their peer group in keeping with the National Strategic Plan.

### • **Youth Development, Sport and Recreation**

Youth (persons aged 12-29 years) have been described as 'the energy, creativity and dynamism that drive society forward [and] the medium that engenders change and helps us to chart new directions for ourselves.'<sup>43</sup> In Trinidad and Tobago, approximately 64 % of the population is youth<sup>44</sup>.

The National Youth Policy (NYP), which guides activities towards the development of youth in Trinidad and Tobago was approved in 2004. This policy document envisions 'empowered young people who are able to make informed choices so that they can lead meaningful, enjoyable lives and

43 Vision 2020 Sub Committee report on Youth, Sport and Recreation (July 2004:30)

44 DNSP- Youth, Sports and Recreation

contribute to the sustainable development of Trinidad and Tobago.'

In fiscal 2006, the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs activities focused on the creation of an enabling environment through the establishment of structures to facilitate the restructuring of the youth service delivery system. Some major achievements in this area of activity include:

- **Establishment of a Project Implementation Unit** - to facilitate the implementation of the NYP and its accompanying 3 year Strategic Implementation Plan;
- **Institutional Strengthening of the Trinidad & Tobago Youth Councils**- Cabinet agreed to the implementation of the project 'Institutional Strengthening of Youth Councils.' This project is identified in the Strategic Implementation Plan of the NYP and will be conducted by the Trinidad and Tobago Youth Councils in an effort to provide capacity building at all levels of youth organizations;
- **Provision of Financial Assistance to Youth NGO's** -  
– the Ministry continued to provide financial assistance to partners in youth development to improve service delivery. Funds in the sum of \$1,465,028.00 were provided to the President's Award Programme. Additional funds in the sum of \$226,299.00 and \$ 297,773.00 were granted to the Girl Guides Association and the San Fernando District Scout Association respectively;
- **Launch of the National Youth Policy**  
– the NYP was formally launched in September 2006. At present, education and awareness programmes are being conducted to disseminate the content of the NYP to youth organizations. In this regard, a 'train the trainer' programme was held in March 2006.

The National Sport Policy (2002) serves to guide the development and direction of physical education and sport in Trinidad and Tobago through two dimensions of contemporary sport, namely High Performance Sport and

Total Participation in Sport. The Sports Company of Trinidad and Tobago was established to develop ten (10) major sports through their National Sporting Organizations, construct, manage and maintain sporting facilities, and initiate suitable programmes for total participation and high performance sport. The Company brings additional resources to fast track the development and implementation of community sport programmes.

In 2006, the Ministry in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, developed draft policy guidelines for the provision of financial assistance to elite athletes in individual sports to facilitate their nutritional, transportation, training, physiological and other needs towards improved and sustained performances and successes at international competitive levels.

The Ministry also provided over \$1.5 million in financial assistance to six (6) high performance athletes to assist in their preparation, training and other requirements for the 2008 Olympic Games.

Other achievements in the area of sports and youth development include: The preparation of legislation to establish an Anti-Doping Agency for the promotion of a drug free sporting environment; five (5) nationals/scholars graduated from the Escuela de Deportes in Cuba having attained their Bachelor's Degree in Physical Recreation and Sport as part of a bilateral agreement between the Republic of Cuba and the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago; seven (7) additional Trinidad and Tobago scholars are at varying stages of completing their degree programme under this agreement and upon graduation are expected to improve the level of Sport Administration locally.

In the area of infrastructure development, the construction of a world class multi-purpose sporting facility at Tarouba commenced and is to be named the Trinidad and Tobago Multi-Purpose Caribbean Sporting Complex at an approximate cost of \$500 million. This will include sporting facilities for cricket, swimming, basketball, netball, volleyball, tennis, and hockey. The cricket facility to be named after Brian Lara will be used for warm-up matches for the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2007.



## The National Social Situation

There were also continuous improvement works to facilities at the Hasely Crawford Stadium including installation of a warm-up track; replacement of stadium seats and construction of a ready room for athletes using the facility; replacement of the Mondo Track and facilities for field events.

During the 2006 fiscal year, support was also given to the sterling efforts of the National Senior Football Team which allowed Trinidad and Tobago to make its debut at the **FIFA World Cup Finals, 2006** in Germany. With the Team emerging as a late finalist, the Ministry, on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, moved to facilitate their financial preparation for the Games, and to develop plans for promoting Trinidad and Tobago as a preferred sporting destination and furthering the concept of developing sport as an industry. Government committed over \$50 million in financial support to the Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation in support of the 2006 World Cup achievements of the 'Soca Warriors'. The Ministry hosted the Central American and Caribbean Junior Championships 2006 at the Hasely Crawford Stadium from July 14th to 16th 2006.

### • **The Special Needs of the Aged**

Trinidad and Tobago's population of aged persons has increased over the years and by 2015, 10% of the population will be 65 years and over. The mission of the Division of Ageing, Ministry of Social Development is to develop programmes for older persons, conduct research, educate and sensitize key stakeholders and the general public on ageing issues and to enhance the quality of life of older persons throughout Trinidad and Tobago by providing an enabling environment for their continued development. The Division has developed standards of care for older persons in institutions such as Homes for the Aged. The division is responsible for co-ordination and implementation of the National Policy on Ageing which addresses the needs of an ageing population. The objectives are to create an environment which will facilitate the meaningful participation and involvement of older persons in society. Two additional Priority Areas for Action were added to the Draft National Policy on Ageing, namely

(i) Transportation and (ii) Disaster Preparedness which were recommended from the public consultations held. The Policy was approved by Cabinet in fiscal 2006.

Programmes and Services managed by the Division and which continued in fiscal 2006 include:

- Establishment of two additional Senior Centres - Soroptomist Senior Centre, St James and Maloney Senior Centre in 2005;
- Commemoration of International Day of Older Persons; and
- the conduct of three public fora sessions for older persons

### • **Gender Development**

Gender equality and the empowerment of women is one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The main objective with respect to this MDG is to eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015. At the national level, the NSP for Trinidad and Tobago has as its stated vision for gender development: "a society in which women and men contribute to, and benefit from, equitable access to and control of resources". The goals that have been demarcated in relation to this are:

1. To establish mechanisms to promote gender equity in the public and private sectors;
2. To sensitize the public on issues arising out of the Gender policy;
3. To produce gender disaggregated social and economic data; and
4. To educate NGOs and CBOs on gender-related issues (DNSP, p.168).

According to the Human Development Report 2005 (HDR, 2005: pg 300) Trinidad and Tobago ranked 48 on the Gender-related Development Index (GDI) having obtained an average value of 0.796, whereas in HDR 2004, this country was ranked 47 on GDI with an average value of 0.795. The contributing factors to this change include:



## The National Social Situation

1. A lower estimate of life expectancy at birth (years): from 71.4 (for 2002)<sup>45</sup> to 69.9 (for Year 2003) which are both based on the United Nations- Revision of Population Prospects 1950-2050 for 2002 and 2003 respectively; and
2. Relative changes in other countries: several countries, such as Panama and Tonga moved upwards in HDR 2005 due to significant data changes in one or more components of the HDI.<sup>46</sup>

The Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs addresses the fundamental structural imbalances that threaten the pursuit of gender equality and equity in Trinidad and Tobago. The Government is committed to fulfilling the mandates relating to the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration, the CARICOM Plan of Action, the Lima Accord-Plan of Action for Children and the United Nations Development Goals, as is evidenced by the implementation of the following ongoing programmes:

- Non-traditional Skills Training for Women
- Women in Harmony
- Battered Women's Shelter and Services
- Men's Support Programme

The National Gender Policy is still being finalized, however projects have already been initiated by the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs to facilitate its implementation and these include:

- Public education and awareness programmes targeting the general public;
- Outreach to community groups and other civil society organizations, especially in the context of the National Gender Policy and CEDAW;
- Reconstruction, co-ordination and collaboration with gender and development advisory bodies, the Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) for Gender and Development, and the National Council for Gender Development (NCGD);

- Implementation of projects aimed at gender mainstreaming, including the development of tools and guidelines to assist agencies to conduct gender analysis, gender audits and include gender consideration in their work;
- Conduct of a lecture series promoting wider public understanding and sensitivity to gender and development issues; and
- Development and application of monitoring and evaluation tools to measure the advancement of gender and development strategies against the baselines and indicators established in the Policy.

### • Access to Quality Housing

Access to quality housing is still being identified by the national populace as a priority issue for national development. According to MORI (2005: 45), one in twelve persons (8%) has identified housing as the most important issue facing the country<sup>47</sup>. However, many of the persons applying to the Ministry of Housing do not qualify for an adequate mortgage: 59% of these applicants earn less than \$4000.00 per month and almost 40% of applicants will not be able to afford even the lowest cost homes currently under construction (Housing Colloquium, 2006).

Persons between the ages of 36-45 are susceptible to the challenge of a short repayment time span and concomitantly, a fairly high mortgage. Households headed by single females are also less likely to access a reasonable mortgage, given that approximately 58% of female applicants to the Ministry of Housing earn less than \$3000 per month, with 32% earning less than \$2000 per month. The Ministry of Housing database also revealed that a large percentage of these female applicants have at least two dependents. Male applicants tend to earn relatively more than female applicants: 48% earn less than \$3000 per month with 19% earning income of less than \$2000 per month. At present, joint applicants are more likely to qualify for housing from the Ministry of Housing since they

45 HDI 2004 refers to figures collected for the year 2002, whereas HDI 2005 refers to figures collected in the year 2003.

46 "Explaining Trinidad and Tobago's HDI rank change in the global Human Development Report 2005"

47 It should also be noted that between 2004 and 2005, the percentage of the population identifying flooding as the most important issue facing Trinidad and Tobago has increased from 3% to 10% (MORI, 2005: 11).

## The National Social Situation

generally enjoy higher levels of income: approximately 75% of these earn more than \$3000 per month.

In light of this, the Ministry of Housing has taken several strategic steps to ensure that every citizen will have access to an adequate level of housing by the year 2020. Current initiatives include the following:

- **Approved Mortgage Companies (AMC) Programme** – a programme that enables finance companies to provide mortgage loans at preferential rates
- **Rent-to-Own Programme** – low-income and middle-income families who are unable to meet the financial requirements of a mortgage are allowed to occupy a mortgage unit for a period of five years with the option to purchase at the end of this period
- **Refurbishment of the Existing Housing Stock** – two grant/subsidy programmes are administered by the Ministry of Housing for the repair of its existing housing stock.

Further details of these and other initiatives are provided in Appendix VII.

However given current inadequacies and the low levels of satisfaction expressed by the citizenry with the services received from the NHA (now NHDC)<sup>48</sup>, new approaches must be employed to ensure the adequacy and efficiency of the services provided by the Ministry of Housing. Appendix VIII provides information on some of the proposed initiatives for ensuring the achievement of the vision 2020 goal of housing for all, which includes:

- An upfront subsidy on the value of serviced lots and actual construction costs
- A right-to-buy programme whereby eligible tenants will be afforded the opportunity to purchase their units

- Reduced legal fees and closing charges through tax exemptions and other measures
- The introduction of an income-based rental policy;
- Community management programmes

## • Regional Development and Sustainable Communities

The vision for regional development and sustainable communities is for '[e]ach region and every community to live harmoniously in a safe and secure environment, making judicious and sustainable use of the natural resources and enjoying a sustained quality of life'. A sustainable community is one in which 'residents are empowered to meet their needs for housing, social facilities, physical infrastructure, recreation and employment opportunities either within or in close proximity to the community without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs' (NSP, p.174).

To achieve this, the strategies outlined in the NSP are predicated on the belief that: citizens must be empowered to take responsibility for their communities through, for example, increased participation in local government processes; every citizen must have fair access to resources and facilities in their communities that are necessary for living a satisfying life; sustainable economies and business enterprises must be encouraged; and information sharing and knowledge development must be fostered within communities. The Ministries of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs and Local Government, have a critical role to play in the development of sustainable communities.

According to the MORI Report 2005, more people felt safe in their local areas than in the country generally (MORI, 2005:27). Approximately 71% of the persons experiencing environmental problems in the past 12 months did not report these to the police. Also, two in three people who

48 According to MORI (2005) customer ratings of the NHA (now NHDC) are generally lower than that for the public services generally. Fewer than half of the users of the NHA who accessed services over a 12 month period spanning between January 2004 and April 2005, were satisfied with the quality of service it provides. The overall high level of dissatisfaction with the NHA is primarily as a result of dissatisfaction with the final outcome: only 46% of the users were satisfied with the final outcome, while 46% were dissatisfied. Two in five of the users were dissatisfied with the service of which a high proportion of these users (28%) were very dissatisfied. Closer examination of the data revealed that the majority of users (77%) found the staff to be helpful, interested (67%) and efficient (59%), but smaller proportions described the service received as quick (51%), though most persons found it easy to get the right person (61%).

have experienced anti-social behaviour did not report these to the police. This high level of underreporting is in part not surprising given the nature of some of these problems vis á vis the limited options for legal redress. But, as MORI (2005:32) notes, "[if] these are issues that affect people's quality of life, in particular how safe they feel in their neighbourhoods, then it will be important for the government to provide the public with an opportunity to complain and get something done about it (either through the police or some other body)".

The Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs has a wide range of community-based programmes which focus on empowering individuals and communities and which includes capacity building for community-based organizations. During fiscal 2006 the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs sought to involve as many persons as possible in various programmes and to encourage communities to share their experiences and expertise. Through this more communities developed a greater awareness and appreciation for each other as seen in their encounters at activities such as the Village Olympics, Traditions of Carnival, La Reine Rive, Folk Presentations/Folk Theatre, Handicraft, Environmental Sanitation, Village Chat, Junior Best Village and the Food and Folk Fairs.<sup>49</sup>

During fiscal 2006 the Government published a Draft White Paper on "Local Government Reform" which focuses on the decentralization of the Local Government system in Trinidad and Tobago and the promotion of greater citizen participation in the affairs of Local Government. It is an integral component of Government's proposal toward its Vision 2020 Mission of Regional Development and Sustainable Communities. The Draft White Paper was laid in the House of Representatives in May 2006 and the Senate in June 2006. The policy objectives are:

- Identification of functions and responsibilities to be decentralized to Local Government Bodies/Municipal Corporations. This will lead to a wider range of functions and responsibilities under the stated bodies, greater community access and

improvements in service delivery. To date action has been initiated for the procurement of consultancy services to facilitate the implementation process.

- Restructuring of the Ministry of Local Government and Municipal Corporations through efficient and effective internal systems and processes, recruitment of professional and skilled human resources, greater involvement of Local Government representatives in national policy planning and development, and greater accountability and transparency. A proposed core establishment /structure for Municipal Corporations is currently being reviewed by the Public Management Consulting Division (PMCD) of the Ministry of Public Administration and Information.
- The establishment of Property Taxation/House Rate Collection Units and Systems in Regional Corporations and the modernization of the systems in Municipal Corporations to enhance local revenue potential as well as effective budgeting and planning. In order to achieve this outcome data collection and verification of real property is about 80% complete by Regional Corporations, and a Property Ownership Registration exercise is currently being undertaken. Preliminary training in property Taxation Administration and Property Assessment has been conducted. The Report of the Cabinet appointed Local Government Inter-ministerial Transitional Task Force (LGITTF) on the transferring of property taxation from the Inland Revenue Department to Regional Corporations and the modernization of the system in Trinidad and Tobago has been completed.
- Review of the existing Legislation, Bye-Laws and Regulations Revised/New Legislation, bye-laws and regulations consistent with institutional requirements through an appointed committee to be established.
- Review of Local Government Boundaries which will facilitate administrative co-ordination and effective

49 SEPF 2007-2009 Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs.

## The National Social Situation

service delivery as well as promote regional development and community integration.

- Institutional Strengthening, Capacity Building, and Public Awareness and Sensitizing Campaigns/ Programmes through efficient and effective internal system, enhanced capacity to manage, plan, co-ordinate and promote regional development, greater awareness and involvement among citizens in Local Government affairs as well as greater transparency and accountability.
- Change Management and related activities which include the effective co-ordination and management of the Local Government Reform Transition Process.
- The Regional Symposia on the Draft White Paper on Local Government Reform was undertaken in August 2006.

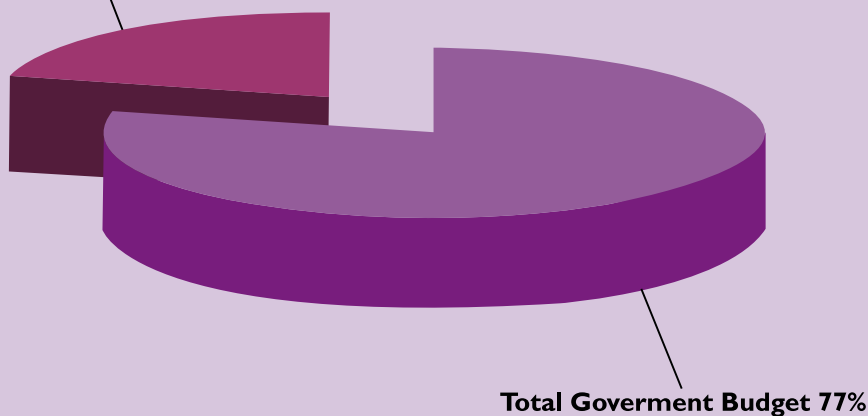
## Overview of the SSIP for 2006

In fiscal 2006 the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago continued the trend of the past four years making significant investment towards human capital development. Government has recognized that although sound economic policies and a well functioning labour market are essential for growth and employment generation, they are not sufficient for sustainable development. Government holds firm to the view that for Trinidad and Tobago to reap the benefits of a healthy growing economy, it must invest in people that is to develop the human and social capital which is essential for increasing productivity and for moving our people towards realizing their full potential.

Trinidad and Tobago, like many developing small island states, continues to grapple with a number of social challenges such as poverty, crime, dysfunctional families and the disintegration in norms and values. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has been and continues its commitment to addressing these challenges through sound investment in programmes and initiatives targeting in particular, the vulnerable and disadvantaged. This was demonstrated by the proportion of the total budget allocated in fiscal 2006 to the key social sector Ministries and Divisions of the Tobago House of Assembly which have responsibility for social programmes and initiatives (See Figure I).

**Figure I: Percentage of Total Budget for Fiscal 2005/2006 Allocated To Core Social Sector Ministries**

**Allocation for Core Social Sector Ministries 23%**



Source: Ministry of Finance, Budget Estimates 2006

The Core Social Sector Ministries and the Social Service Divisions of the Tobago House of Assembly in fiscal 2005 / 2006 received a total of \$10.3 billion dollars of the national budget for both recurrent and capital expenditures (See Table II).

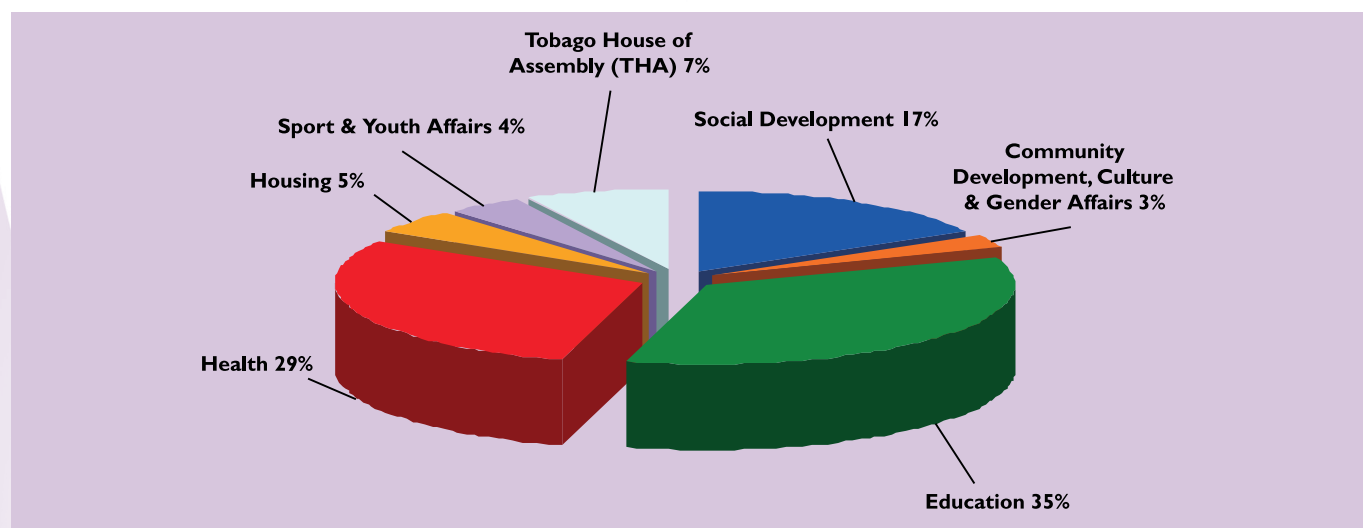
## Overview of the SSIP for 2006

**Table II: Budgeted Allocations for the Core Social Sector Ministries and the Social Service Divisions of the Tobago House of Assembly Fiscal 2005 / 2006**

Core Social Sector Ministries & Tobago House Of Assembly	Development Programme	Recurrent Expenditure	Total
Social Development	\$34,661,000.00	\$1,683,853,679.00	\$1,718,514,679.00
Community Development, Culture & Gender Affairs	\$65,451,000.00	\$215,697,540.00	\$281,148,540.00
Education	\$392,700,000.00	\$3,195,598,097.00	\$3,588,298,097.00
Health	\$428,325,000.00	\$2,603,954,471.00	\$3,032,279,471.00
Housing	\$339,920,000.00	\$162,284,884.00	\$502,204,884.00
Sport & Youth Affairs	\$172,020,000.00	\$233,393,212.00	\$405,413,212.00
Tobago House Of Assembly (THA)	\$75,739,000.00	\$696,329,421	\$772,068,421.00
	\$1,508,816,000.00	\$8,791,111,304.00	\$10,299,927,304.00
*Social Sector Divisions of THA:			
_ Tourism, Transportation, Enterprise Development and Settlements			
		\$162,668,598.00	
_ Education, Youth Affairs and Sports			
		\$251,343,073.00	
_ Community Development and Culture			
		\$65,137,850.00	
_ Health and Social Services			
		\$217,104,900.00	
_ Central Administrative Services			
		\$75,000.00	
_ Social Infrastructure			
	\$75,739,000.00	\$696,329,421.00	\$772,068,421.00

The distribution of allocations within the social sector demonstrates a continued commitment to meeting the educational needs of the population as well as the provision of a quality health care system, the Ministries of Health and Ministry of Education cumulatively receiving 64% of the total allocated to the social sector. (See Figure II)

**Figure II: Budget Allocations for the Core Social Sector Ministries – 2005/2006**



Source: Ministry of Finance, Budget Estimates 2006 & Tobago House of Assembly, Draft Estimates 2006



## Overview of the SSIP for 2006

Poverty alleviation is high on Government's agenda as Trinidad and Tobago moves towards developed country status. The Ministry of Social Development, one of the major drivers in the process of meeting the needs and transforming the lives of the most vulnerable sections of the population, received 17% of the total amount allocated to the social sector.

Government's commitment to meeting the service needs in the social sector has been demonstrated clearly over the years. In fiscal 2006, the Government investment in social infrastructure and programming increased to \$6,577,831,780.00. This figure represented an increase of over 45% from fiscal 2005. Table III below outlines the **Budgeted Allocations for Social Infrastructure and Programming 2004 – 2006**. Appendices IX and X are relevant.

**Table III: Budgeted Allocations for Social Infrastructure and Programming Fiscal 2004 - 2006**

Year	Social Infrastructure	Social Programming	Total
2004	\$816,111,429.00	\$2,662,006,271.00	\$3,478,117,700.00
2005	\$1,541,246,305.00	\$2,999,161,400.00	\$4,540,407,705.00
2006	\$2,475,746,875.00	\$4,102,084,905.00	\$6,577,831,780.00

Source: Ministries of Finance and Planning and Development

Allocations to remedial programmes have been relatively consistent over the last years and are an expression of the government's commitment to human and social rights. Certain social problems are inevitable as many people experience difficulties in managing life situations and transitions that in turn impact on their social functioning. In fiscal 2006, Government allocated \$1,900,453,136.00 or 43% of total allocation in the social sector to remedial programmes. Table IV provides figures on the budgeted allocations for social programmes by area of intervention for the fiscal year 2004-2006.

**Table IV: Budgeted Allocations for Social Programmes by Area of Intervention for Fiscal 2004 - 2006**

Year	Remedial	Preventative	Developmental
2004	\$1,339,511,437.00	\$339,413,892.00	\$983,080,942.00
2005	\$1,373,943,592.00	\$315,471,360.00	\$1,171,177,009.00
2006	\$1,901,690,932.00	\$435,899,202.00	\$2,053,189,682.00

Source: Budgets Division of the Ministry of Finance and the Social Sector Investment Programme (SSIP) 2006

This remedial category includes programmes that provide for cash transfers and social relief to ensure that people have adequate economic and social protection. Social programmes of this nature enable vulnerable households to provide adequate care for their members and avoiding further erosion of the social fabric. When exposed to capacity building programmes opportunities are provided to enable individuals to escape from the poverty trap and sustain their livelihood. Table V below outlines the trend in the allocation to the three programme categories over the period, fiscal 2005 – fiscal 2006.

## Overview of the SSIP for 2006

**Table V: Percentage Comparisons of Budgeted Allocations within the Categories of Developmental, Remedial and Preventative Programmes for fiscal 2005 and 2006 in Trinidad**

Programme Category	Budgeted Allocations 2005 \$	% of Total Budgeted Allocation 2005	Budgeted Allocations 2006 \$	% of Total Budgeted Allocation 2006
Developmental	1,171,177,009	41%	2,053,189,682	47%
Remedial	1,373,943,592	48%	1,901,690,932	43%
Preventative	315,471,360	11%	435,899,202	10%
Total Allocation	2,860,591,961	100%	4,390,779,816	100%

Source: Budgets Division of the Ministry of Finance and the Social Sector Investment Programme (SSIP) 2006

Government is mindful that the war on poverty can best be waged by empowering persons living under vulnerable circumstances. In this regard the main strategy has been to seek to increase investments in programmes that have the potential to move individuals out of conditions of indigence. In fiscal 2006, significant resources were provided for preventative and developmental programmes. Emphasis was placed on skills development programmes which promote sustainable livelihoods. It is significant to note that the percentage channelled into developmental type programmes has increased over the last fiscal year in keeping with social development objectives.

### Family Focused Policies And Programme Initiatives

In fiscal 2006, emphasis was also placed on strengthening the family as the basic unit of society. Policy and programme initiatives were directed towards ensuring that families are empowered with the resources, skills and support systems that are necessary for healthy functioning. All Ministries were requested to undertake a review of their family-related programmes and projects in the context of determining a structured approach to strengthening the support systems for the family. Box III contains a listing of Family Programmes which were conducted during fiscal 2006.

### Box III: Family Programmes Conducted In Fiscal 2006

- Adolescent Mothers Programme
- The Adoption of Children Holistic Development and Protection of Children Programme
- Community-Based Family Life Meetings & Training for Parenting
- Community Residence and Ambulatory Services for Children and Adolescents At Risk
- Domestic Violence Programme
- Emergency Assistance for Families
- Family First Foundation Nurturing Centre
- Family Life Management Workshops
- Family Media Programme
- Family Remedial Therapy Programme
- Family Surveillance “Walk The Walk, Door To Door” Programme
- Gender Training Programme
- Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme
- Guidance and Counselling
- Life After School Programme
- Men’s Support Programme
- Old Age Pension Programme
- Public Assistance Programme
- Reach Programme
- Rehabilitation of Child Labourers
- Social Help And Rehabilitative Efforts (S.H.A.R.E)

The commitment of Government to strengthening the family system and the associated support was demonstrated by the proportion of the total budget that was allocated to the key Ministries in the social sector for family-related programmes. The total budget allocation to family-focused programmes is \$12, 231,406.00. Table VI gives a break down of the budgeted allocations and estimated expenditure for selected family focused programmes for the 2006 fiscal year.

## Overview of the SSIP for 2006

**Table VI: Budgeted Allocations and Estimated Expenditure for Selected Family Related Programmes in Fiscal 2006**

Programme	Budgeted Allocation 2006	Estimated Expenditures 2006
Adolescent Mothers Programme	\$834,362.00	\$ 834,362.00
Child Rights Activities	\$50,000.00	\$49,481.00
Domestic Violence Programme	\$2,645,090.00	\$1,589,090.00.
Emergency Assistance Fund	\$1,032,750.00	\$1,062,600.00.
Family Life Management Workshops	\$400,000.00	\$294,500.00
Family First Foundation Nurturing Centre	\$ 50,000.00	\$50,000.00
Family Media Programme	\$200,000.00	\$49,920.00
Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme	\$ 8,000,000.00	\$5,322,219.00
Men Support Programme	\$150,000.00	\$100,036.00
Old Age Pension Programme	\$1,032,750,000.00	\$1,032,750,000.00
Public Assistance Programme	\$271,200,000.00	\$195,240,000.00
Social Help And Rehabilitative (S.H.A.R.E)	\$50,000,000.00	\$46,500,000.00

### New Programmes Conceptualised And / Or Implemented in 2006

In fiscal 2006, some new programmes were conceptualized, while others were implemented with the intention of positively impacting the lives of our citizens.

A comprehensive proposal for the implementation of a National Counselling Programme for Trinidad and Tobago was developed building on existing programmes and services across the sector. This programme would provide expanded professional counselling and other intervention services that would equip adults, children and families with skills to cope with social and emotional stresses and to develop the ability to engage in effective and positive behaviours. The Programme is expected to come on stream in early fiscal 2007.

In fiscal 2006, the Ministry of Social Development developed a concept paper for the introduction of the Trinidad and Tobago National Parenting Programme (TTNPP).

Source: Social Sector Ministries & Ministry of Finance Budgets Division  
The aim of this programme is to:

- Develop and provide a comprehensive continuum of support to empower parents to carry out their parenting duties in order to promote holistic development in the growth of their children
- Equip persons and potential parents with the necessary knowledge and skills to make responsible and informed decisions pertaining to parenting
- Promote healthy family functioning and the building of strong communities in Trinidad and Tobago.

Two consultations with stakeholders were held in the fourth quarter of the fiscal year with a view toward finalizing the programme proposal. It is expected that implementation would commence early in the fiscal 2007. Box IV below highlights other programmes introduced in the period under review. Appendix XI provides further information on the status of new programmes and initiatives which were proposed for implementation in 2006.

### Box IV: Other new Programmes Implemented in Fiscal 2006

- Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP)
- Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (CCTP)
- Rehabilitating Inmates through Training and Retraining

Further discussions on the new programmes undertaken in fiscal 2005 / 2006 would be discussed under the Review of Programme Achievements for 2006.

Several policies to guide programme development and service provision in the sector were either developed and/or finalized during fiscal 2006. Box V outlines the various policy documents.

### Box V: Policies Developed and/or Finalised in Fiscal 2006

- National Policy on Deportees
- Family Policy (Draft)
- National Policy on Local Government Reform (Draft)
- Policy for Adult Education
- National Policy on Employment
- National Policy on Child Labour
- National Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS
- National Policy on Persons with Disabilities
- National Plan of Action for Children
- National Gender Policy (Draft)
- Policy on NGO/Government Relationships (Draft)
- Policy on Government Assistance to Faith-based Organizations (Draft)
- National Policy on the Development of Tertiary Education, Training and Distance and Lifelong Learning
- Policy on the Establishment of a Seamless Education and Training System
- National Cultural Policy (Draft)
- Policy on Tax Incentive for the Arts (Draft)
- National Policy on Ageing
- National Policy on Biotechnology (Draft)
- Regional Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Framework (Draft)

## Overview of the SSIP for 2006

### Social Research Undertaken In 2006

Government has recognized the importance of conducting social research to properly identify and address the major issues and social problems affecting our society. Emphasis was placed in fiscal 2006 on the monitoring of socio-economic trends and indicators, fostering links with local and international research agencies, and on the commissioning of studies on various social issues. The following Surveys were undertaken or commenced in fiscal 2006:

- Causes and Effects of Alcoholism in Trinidad and Tobago
- Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey in collaboration with UNICEF
- Levels of Functional Literacy
- Conformity to Socially Accepted Norms and Values in Trinidad and Tobago
- Status of Males in Society
- Survey of Teaching of Math in Secondary Schools
- Tracer Study of Social Sciences Graduates, 2000
- Survey of Science and Technology Indicators (2000-2004)
- Survey on Public Perception of Science, 2005
- Survey on Science and Technology Indicators, 2005

The Survey on the Causes and Effects of Alcoholism in Trinidad and Tobago was commissioned by the Ministry of Social Development. A final report will be completed by August 30th 2006.

The Multiple Indicators Cluster Survey (MICS) was undertaken to facilitate this country's reporting to the United Nations on the attainment of World Summit for children goals. As part of its global, regional and sub-regional commitment, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago is again due to present a mid-decade report on the status of the attainment of goals set for children in Trinidad and Tobago for 2010. In light of this, the Ministry of Social Development, in collaboration with other key stakeholders commenced the MICS 2006 in February and has since completed the Survey. The Final Report is expected to be published early in fiscal 2007 and would provide data on indicators such as:

- Infant and Under Morality
- Education
- Child Malnutrition
- HIV/AIDS
- Birth Registration
- Child Labour

The National Survey on the Degree of Conformity to Socially Acceptable Norms and Values in Trinidad and Tobago is another research study commissioned by the Ministry of Social Development. One aspect of the mandate of the Ministry is engineering positive social and cultural change in the citizenry through education and information dissemination. The objectives of this research are therefore to:

- Assess the extent to which there has been a collapse of socially acceptable norms and values in Trinidad and Tobago;
- Identify the cause and effects of a breakdown in those norms and values; and
- Forward recommendations towards the arrest and/or reversal of the degeneration of the socially acceptable norms and values.

The Psychological Research Centre of the University of the West Indies is undertaking the study on behalf of the Ministry of Social Development.

The survey on the Status of Males in Society will provide a more in-depth understanding of the role of males in today's society and aid in the development of appropriate initiatives to strengthen parenting and gender relations. The Ministry of Social Development is of the view that this study is key to the development of our human capital, as males have a critical role to play in the formation and maintenance of the family. Preliminary planning activities for the conduct of the study commenced in fiscal 2006 and field work will begin in the first quarter of fiscal 2007.

An Assessment of the Non-Government Sector in the context of Social Services Delivery was carried out during the period January-August 2006 under the Monitoring & Evaluation Division of the Ministry of Social Development.



## Overview of the SSIP for 2006

These Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) function in various capacities, working towards improvement in the quality of life of the marginalized sectors of society. Given the important role that these organizations play in the delivery of social services and the intention to further expand their role, it is necessary to obtain profiles of all NGOs in order to understand the scope and capacity of the sector. A database will be developed which will provide information to guide decision making with respect to Government - NGO partnerships which will highlight areas where support may be required or where gaps in geographic coverage of services exist.

A Study on the Regularization of Squatters in Port-of-Spain was commissioned by the Ministry of Housing through the Land Settlement Agency in 2005. The Study is intended to:

- Identify exact squatter sites, their geographic boundaries and land ownership patterns, numbers of squatter families and households and the demographic and socio-economic profiles of these communities;
- Develop regularization scenarios for each community identifying the range of Government interventions, laws, appropriate techniques and procedures and their reflection in regulations, administrative practices, taxations systems, subsidy provision, infrastructure investments, land acquisition, stakeholder incentive schemes etc. as required to support orderly access to affordable shelter in the project area; and
- Develop a local area development framework that is consistent with proposals for the wider Port-of-Spain area, particularly with regard to population density, infrastructure development and transportation.

The final Report of the Study on the Regularization of Squatters in Port of Spain submitted in 2006 concluded that there was substantial informal housing on private lands for which the existing legislation does not address.

The Rapid Assessment of the Multi-purpose Community Based Telecentre (MCT) Project was initiated in response to a need by stakeholders to determine the future of the MCT Project as it exits in its pilot phase. The assessment included a mixed method of data collection involving direct observation, interviews with clients and staff and document reviews and took place over a period of approximately 8 weeks. The review was conducted by a team from the Monitoring and Evaluation Division with the assistance an MCT Administrator.

The MCT project is an intervention of the Ministry of Social Development which involves the use of Information Communication Technology as a tool for the empowerment and advancement of disadvantaged sectors of the society.

The objectives of this assessment were:

- To determine whether the established telecentre produced the desired outcomes in their target communities;
- To determine whether the project resources were effectively utilized;
- To determine whether high standards of service delivery were maintained;
- To determine whether the project concept was fully and effectively exploited in meeting its goal; and
- To determine whether the project should be expanded, and if so, the manner in which such an expansion should be configured based on the lessons learnt from the pilot.

In February 2006, the Distance Education Baseline Survey was undertaken by the Ministry of Education to assess the degree to which nationals of Trinidad and Tobago were enrolled in distance learning programmes and the extent to which tertiary level institutions are involved in distance learning and / or cross border education. In March 2006 an invitation was published requesting feedback from participants engaged in Distance Learning, from which data will be collected and analysed.

## Overview of the SSIP for 2006

### Tobago

The Tobago House of Assembly embraces the view that a nation's social development is the key to its economic growth and stability. As a result, the Assembly continued in 2006 on its path to empowering the citizens of the sister island of Tobago with the primary objective being poverty reduction and enhancing the welfare of the less fortunate in society. In this regard, Tobago has not only made notable economic progress but has also made significant advances in its social infrastructure.

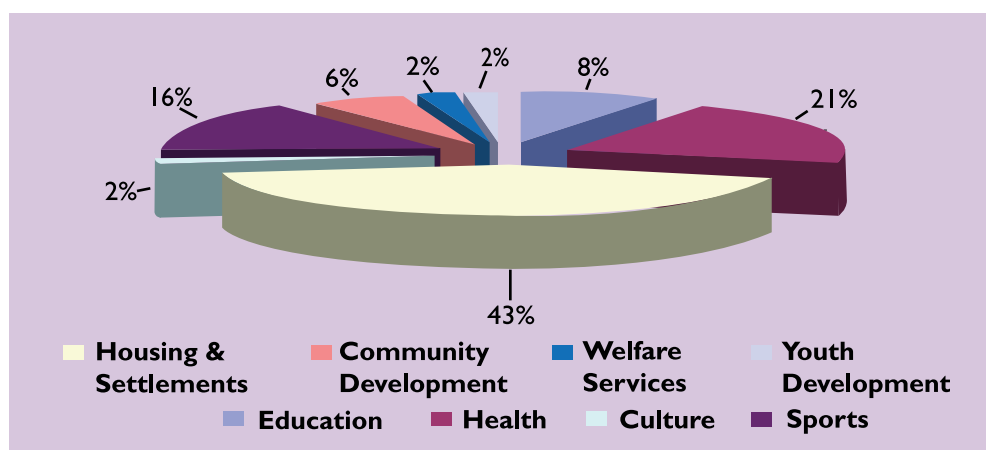
Improvements were also made in the country's research and data gathering capacity, and key social-economic indicators through the Policy Research and Development Institute (PRDI) and Central Statistical Office (CSO) would assist in the planning and policy making processes of Tobago.

In addition, the achievements in the Tourism Sector in Tobago, has been phenomenal over the years, with the number of visitors increasing steadily (in fiscal 2006, the number of visitors exceeded 100,000), which had a positive impact on the income and employment sector. Within this context the expenditure in the Tourism Rolling Plan was estimated at \$47.9 million.

The primary objective of the provision of social services is the protection of the most vulnerable groups of society from unacceptable levels of deprivation. To this end, the Tobago House of Assembly has instituted a number of programmes to provide assistance to disadvantaged groups and individuals. Steps are currently being taken to rationalize and restructure the social services delivery programme to improve coordination and management and to ensure the necessary benefits reach the targeted groups.

With regard to the granting of subventions to nongovernmental organizations for the fiscal period 2005/ 2006, a total of \$1,843,000.00 was given to various non governmental organizations including cultural groups, police youth clubs and religious organizations. In addition \$1.2 million to provide assistance to necessitous patients; \$1.6million to sporting organizations, \$1.5 million to individual cultural groups and \$9.0 million for Heritage and other festivals were allocated. In fiscal 2006, the total allocation for social programming was \$279,410,000 and was divided among the following social sector Divisions with Housing and Settlements (43%), Health (21%) and Sport (16%) receiving the majority share of the allocation as illustrated in the Figure III below.

**Figure III: Budgeted Allocations for the Core Social Sector Divisions of the Tobago House of Assembly for 2006**



Source- Tobago House of Assembly – Draft Estimates 2006

The main social sector initiatives under the various divisions of the THA for the fiscal period 2005/2006 are represented in Table VII.

**Table VII: Major Initiatives of the THA for the period 2005/2006**

Division	Major Initiatives
Community Development and Culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The completion of Community Centres- The Glamorgan Community Centre, The Mt. St. George Community Centre and the Hope Community Centre at an approximate cost of \$7.0 million.</li> <li>• Two heritage buildings have been completed at the Fort St. George Park</li> </ul>
Education, Youth Affairs and Sport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued implementation of School Renovation and Repair Programme</li> <li>• Construction of the New University of Trinidad and Tobago Campus in Buccoo.</li> <li>• Establishment of a Teachers Help Desk (to facilitate the work of Teachers)</li> <li>• Continuation of Programmes for Youth on reproductive health and HIV/AIDS awareness and sensitization</li> <li>• Establishment of new centres for the Early Childhood Centre Programme at Montgomery, Buccoo and Signal Hill</li> <li>• 1.8 million meals served to students through the School Feeding Programme</li> <li>• Implementation of the School Bus system, providing subsidized transportation to over 3000 students every school day</li> <li>• Construction of new sporting pavilions at Speyside and Signal Hill</li> </ul>
Health and Social Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 36,000 patients treated annually at the Scarborough Hospital Accident and Emergency Department</li> <li>• Over 15,000 hours of kidney dialysis performed at the Scarborough Hospital</li> <li>• Continuation of the HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse Programme</li> </ul>
Tourism, Transportation, Enterprise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Collaboration of NSDP, CDF and the National Self Help Development and Settlements Commission to assist 144 persons with home repairs</li> <li>• Implementation of new home construction ( 245 homes) in Roxborough, Blenheim and Castara</li> </ul>

## Overview of the SSIP for 2006

Through its various divisions, a range of developmental, preventative and remedial programmes were conducted in fiscal 2005/2006, as illustrated in Box VI.

### Box VI: Types Of Social Development Programmes (Tobago)

#### Developmental Programmes

- Youth Development Programme
- Assistance to Cultural Groups
- Foster Care
- Life After School Programme
- Social Services and Prison Integrated Network
- Assistance to Community Organizations
- CARE
- Reach
- On De Block
- Building Bridges

#### Remedial Programmes

- Assistance to Home for the Aged Family Surveillance
- Grant to Necessitous Persons
- Small Grants
- Family First Foundation Nurturing Centre
- Golden Age/ Adolescent Partnership Programme

#### Preventative Programmes

- Tobago School Feeding Programme
- Tobago Health Promotion Clinic Programme
- Battered Women's Shelter Services
- Children and Family Services Programme
- Domestic Violence Programme
- Tobago Drug Council and Alcohol and HIV / AIDS Prevention Programme

The developmental programmes mainly targeted children, the youth and communities. Other Programmes addressed the concerns of the vulnerable groups as the Social Services and Prison Integrated Network (SPINE) targeted socially displaced persons, (resident at the centre for socially displaced persons) through the teaching of basic skills to enhance personal independence, and societal responsibility. The THA also undertook as part of its development plan the task of providing sustainable livelihoods. This was achieved by the provision of small grants to budding entrepreneurs, to become self sufficient, as part of the Project for the Realisation of Economic Achievement (REACH).

The THA has also placed great attention on the provision of Health and Social Services with the necessary emphasis on both preventative and curative action. The setting up of

the Tobago Health Promotion Clinic, aimed to strengthen families, by reducing the spread of HIV and AIDS, through prevention and awareness programmes. Alcohol and drug abuse prevention was encouraged through education, treatment and rehabilitation for substance abusers. In an effort to prevent homelessness, grants were issued to assist in maintaining homes for children and youth, as well as a shelter for battered women.

Programmes of a remedial nature were also offered by the Tobago House of Assembly in fiscal 2006, to address the concerns of children and adolescents who are at risk. Faith based groups provided interventions which instilled discipline and increased self esteem, thereby empowering the participants to take responsibility for their own behavioural change.

## Outlook of the SSIP for 2007

In fiscal 2007, Government's investment in the sector for social infrastructure, programming and other social initiatives is \$7.1 billion, an increase of approximately \$523.5 million from the previous year. The budgeted allocation for social infrastructure under the Development Programme in the areas of the delivery of social services, education, health care, housing, community services and human resource development is \$1.6 billion, whilst allocations toward social

type projects under the Infrastructure Development Fund is \$1.1 billion. The sum of \$4.4 billion has been allocated towards programmes and projects, policy development, research and institutional/structural initiatives under recurrent expenditure. The latter indicates a \$288.6 million dollars (7%) increase in the allocation toward programming over the 2006 fiscal year. See Table VIII below.

**Table VIII: Comparison of Budgeted Allocations For Social Infrastructure & Programming Fiscal – 2006- 2007**

Sector Component	Budgeted Allocation (\$) Fiscal 2006	Budgeted Allocations (\$) Fiscal 2007
Social Infrastructure	2,475,746,875.00	2,710,700,000.00
Development Programme	707,859,172.00	1,592,700,000.00
Infrastructure Development Fund	1,767,887,703.00	1,118,000,000.00
Social Programming	4,102,084,905.00	4,390,641,527.00
TOTAL ALLOCATION	6,577,831,780.00	7,101,341,527.00

Source: Ministries of Finance & Planning & Development

In fiscal 2007 Government will continue to build on the foundation which has been established for the achievement of broad social development objectives. Focus will be placed on achieving the goals of the Vision 2020 Operational Plan 2007-2010, for the development pillars, "Nurturing a Caring Society and Developing Innovative People", which are discussed in more detail later in this section. Energies would be channelled once more toward improving the systems for delivery of services to persons in communities and to addressing the critical issues of poverty alleviation, social integration, social security, education and skills development,

regional and community development, the creation of a peaceful environment and promotion of healthy lifestyles and wellness. Of particular significance will be strengthening of the systems and structures for the alleviation of poverty and the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Policy for the sector. The latter activity will continue apace to establish the mechanisms for assessing programme impact and reach. A special task force will be established to expedite this process.

Some of the major strategic objectives for fiscal 2007 are outlined below in Box VII.

## Outlook of the SSIP for 2007

### Box VII: Major Strategic Directions For The 2007 SSIP

- Strengthening of the institutional structures and systems for poverty alleviation;
- Identifying and focusing on the poorest of the poor as priority clients;
- Increasing access to education and training opportunities;
- Strengthening and where necessary, establishing systems for effective targeting, monitoring and evaluation of social programmes to track progress;
- Building strategic partnerships for attaining sustainable development priorities;
- Accelerating construction and distribution of housing;
- Improving the performance of the health care delivery systems;
- Promoting healthy lifestyles and wellness through education;
- Building the capacity of key social sector Ministries to deliver their specific mandates;
- Promoting sport and recreation for all;
- Strengthening governance systems and practices;
- Establishing where necessary and strengthening the existing systems of support for the family as a core institution of society; and
- Pursuing integration and global partnerships for development.

The critical plans to be undertaken under the two development pillars are outlined hereunder:

### Nurturing A Caring Society

The Vision 2020 Operational Plan 2007-2010 identifies a caring society as “a healthy society in a sustainable environment where citizens are well educated, embrace diversity, have their basic needs adequately met, and in which the national development process is further informed by these well-articulated needs”. It further submits that the overarching objective in creating a caring society in Trinidad and Tobago is the improvement in the quality of life of all citizens. The goals that fall under this development pillar, for the medium term are outlined in Box VIII below:

### Box VIII: Goals of The Vision 2020 Operational Plan 2007-2010 for Nurturing a Caring Society

- GOAL I: Poverty will be reduced
- GOAL II: All citizens will have access to adequate housing
- GOAL III: All citizens will be empowered to lead long, healthy lifestyles and have access to an efficient health care delivery system
- GOAL IV: The HIV epidemic will be contained and those infected or affected with the virus will be cared for
- GOAL V: Trinidad and Tobago will develop a culture of sports and will focus on high performance sports
- GOAL VI: The foundation of Trinidad and Tobago will be strong families and sustainable communities



## Outlook of the SSIP for 2007

Some of the major activities to be undertaken during fiscal 2007 toward meeting the goals of the operational plan for this development pillar include:-

### Poverty

- Finalization of the Survey of Living Conditions and the conduct of a poverty audit and an assessment of the Social Safety Net;
- Establishment of a Special Task Force to oversee the monitoring and evaluation of social programmes and projects;
- Expansion of the Conditional Cash Transfer Programme to include additional vulnerable groups and individuals who meet the criteria for participation in the programme;
- Commencement of the implementation of a decentralized system for social services delivery to communities;
- Strengthening of the structures established under the EU-sponsored Poverty Reduction Programme;
- Enhancement of the Old Age Pension Programme

### Housing

- Intensification of the Urban Renewal Programme of the Ministry of Housing;
- Introduction of the New Town Housing Programme;
- Expansion of the Rent-to-own-Programme;

### Health

- Establishment of a Community Medicine Programme which will involve the establishment of mobile clinics to access rural communities for health education and provision of basic medical services;
- Expansion of the CDAP Programme;
- Upgrade of health facilities and rationalization of support systems at the Regional Health Authorities;

### HIV/AIDS

- Establishment of a National System for the Clinical Management of HIV/AIDS;

- Expansion of Voluntary Counselling and Testing sites for HIV/AIDS
- Expansion of facilities for the Treatment and Care of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS;
- Conduct of a number of surveys to assist in building a National Surveillance System for HIV/AIDS;

### Youth and Sport

- Development of a Sports for All Policy
- Establishment of a National Youth Policy Implementation Unit;

### The Family

- Finalisation of a National Policy on the Family;
- Establishment of the Children's Authority;
- Establishment of a National Counselling Programme;
- Establishment of a National Parenting Programme;

### Community, Gender and Regional Development

- Finalisation of the Gender Policy;
- Finalisation of the Policy for Local Government Reform;
- Improved Community Centres through the construction/refurbishment of these facilities. In 2007 it is proposed to construct thirty two ( 32) centres and refurbish fifty seven (57) community centres, three civic (3) centres and three (3) complexes;
- Strengthening and expansion of the physical infrastructure base in low income and depressed communities with inadequate and /or dysfunctional physical facilities through the Community Enhancement and Re-habilitation Programme (CERP), Self-Help and the National Social Improvement Programme ( NSIP);
- Modernization of laws to engender equity and justice on gender issues with the ongoing review of current legislation in compliance with the Convention of the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW); and the

## Outlook of the SSIP for 2007

- Employment facilitation through the establishment of Community Information, Documentation and Management Centres in all Administrative Districts, which will establish and maintain databases on the skills available within the communities as well as the availability of skilled persons for employment

### Developing Innovative People

Within the context of the development of an innovative people in Trinidad and Tobago, the Vision 2020 Operational Plan, 2007-2010 envisions:

“... A highly skilled well-educated, knowledge driven people, who are critical thinkers, actively embracing a culture of excellence.”

The development priorities in this area are concentrated on innovation, competitiveness, skills development and training, and lifelong learning. The major goals for this development pillar are outlined in Box IX below.

#### Box IX: Goals of The Vision 2020 Operational Plan 2007-2010 for Developing Innovative People

- GOAL I - The development of a seamless, world-class, self-renewing education system.
- GOAL II – The development of a learning society by creating opportunities for quality education.
- GOAL III - The building of a skilled, competitive workforce with a strong scientific, technological and entrepreneurial capability.
- GOAL IV - A culture of science, technology and innovation will be engendered.
- GOAL V - Trinidad and Tobago will build on the internal strengths of its culture as a powerful engine to inspire innovation and support employment creation.

Some of the major activities to be undertaken during fiscal 2007 toward meeting the goals of the Vision 2020 operational plan for this development pillar include:-

### Tertiary Education, Science, Technology and Innovation

- Organizational Changes in the mandate of COSTATT to transform the institution into a comprehensive National Community College;
- Rationalisation and integration of a number of higher education institutes such as the Eastern Caribbean Institute of Agriculture and Forestry (ECIAP) and National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST);
- Expansion of the training offerings of the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT);
- Full introduction of the Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP);
- Restructuring and expansion of some of the main skills training programmes under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education such as YTEPP and MUST;
- Strengthening and expansion of programmes related to science, technology and innovation to reach a wider target group. In particular, science popularization will be strengthened through enhanced outreach activities.

### Pre-primary, Primary and Secondary Education

- The continued thrust towards attainment of Universal Early Childhood Care and Education by the year 2010, through the ongoing construction of additional ECCE Centres, refurbishing of existing ones as well as the furnishing and equipping of these centres;
- Improving curriculum delivery and creating diversity in offerings as well as strengthening supports to the curriculum;
- A renewed system of school supervision, and the introduction of a School Inspectorate system;
- Development of standards and indicators to measure and evaluate achievement throughout the system;
- Implementation of Local Schools Boards in all government primary, ECCE centres and secondary schools;
- Expansion of the Magnet/ Specialist School Programme in secondary schools;

- Expanding access to post-secondary education;
- The establishment of the Quality Assurance Unit to monitor and evaluate the overall performance of the sector; and the
- Implementation of this Ministry' restructuring and decentralization plan through the establishment of seven (7) full service District Offices and the restructuring of Divisions;

The major activities to be undertaken to achieve the various medium term goals outlined above are further detailed in Chapter 6 under Sector Plans for fiscal 2007.

### Legislative Agenda for The Social Sector

Work will continue on the establishment of an appropriate legal framework for the attainment of development objectives. Box X below outlines the legislative agenda for fiscal 2007 with relevance to the social sector.

#### Box X: Legislative Agenda for The Social Sector – Fiscal 2007

- The Consumer Protection Bill
- The Conditions of Work Bill
- The Industrial Relation (Amendment) Bill
- The Employment Injury Disability & Benefits Bill
- The Quality Health Services Bill
- The Anti-Doping Commission Bill
- The Homes for Older Persons Bill
- The Sport Commission Bill
- Amendments to the Accreditation Council Act
- Amendments to the COSTATT Act
- The University of Trinidad and Tobago Vesting Bill
- The Occupational Health and Safety Authority Bill

## Outlook of the SSIP for 2007

### Policies Which Will Be Developed /completed In 2007

A number of Social Policies will be developed in fiscal 2007, in order to accelerate the momentum of social development.

These include:-

- A Science, Technology and Innovation Policy
- A Policy on Specialized Accrediting Bodies
- A Science Education Policy
- A Policy Document on Distance and Life Long Learning
- A National Life Skills Policy
- A design for the Seamless Education and Training Plan
- A Policy on NGO/Government/Private Sector Relations for Sustainable Development.

### Research to be Completed /Undertaken In 2007

In an effort to gain an understanding of the nature, extent, causes and effects of several of the social ills affecting the social sector, a Research Agenda for the Social Sector for the fiscal period 2006-2007 will include:

#### Ministry of Social Development

- A Nationwide Survey on Gambling in Trinidad and Tobago
- A survey on Child Victimization
- A survey of addicts in Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres
- An enquiry into the status of children on whose behalf public assistance is paid
- A study on the status of Males in Society

#### Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs

- The Institutionalization of a Tracer Study Programme to evaluate the impact of the Training Programmes offered by that Ministry.

#### National AIDS Coordinating Committee

- A KAPB ( Knowledge, Attitude, Practices and Behaviour) Study on HIV/AIDS for in and out of School Youth
- A KAPB study on Sex Workers
- An Assessment of the Quality of Life of Persons Living with HIV/AIDS
- A Situational Analysis of HIV/AIDS on Women and Girls

#### Ministry of Science Technology and Tertiary Education

- A Health and Life Styles Survey
- A study on Mathematics in Primary Schools
- Compilation of Innovative Indicators
- Development of a Skills database on Trinidad and Tobago Technicians overseas.

### New Programmes which will be Implemented

In fiscal 2007, the implementation of social programmes will continue to focus on the family, poverty alleviation, education, social integration, health, youth and community development. New programmes which will be implemented include:-

#### Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs

- Youth Resources for Implementing Successful Enterprises (Youth Rise)

#### Ministry of Social Development

- National Parenting Programme
- National Counselling Programme
- Criminal Injuries Compensation Programme

#### Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs

- Establishment of the Community Development Enterprise Window
- The Entrepreneurial (Micro Enterprise) Development / Management Programme

### Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro-Enterprise Development

- Programme to assist the Disabled in finding sustainable employment

### Tobago

- Roving Care Giver Programme
- Boys II Men
- Car Wash Programme for Recovering Addicts
- Senior Citizens Centres

Further details on the above programmes and initiatives are provided in Appendix XII.

# Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

In keeping with the Vision 2020 seamless approach to national development and service delivery, and in an attempt to group programmes in a manner which would facilitate analysis of impact in the context of long term social development goals and objectives, the categories used to organize programmes and initiatives for this year's SSIP have been reformatted from a Ministry-based approach to the use of categories based on recognized social development concepts.

These established themes are closely aligned to the activity areas of the Vision 2020 national development plan relevant to developing innovative people and nurturing a caring society. They have been further adapted and redefined so as to include additional important areas of focus such as the family. The following main categories have been used:

- Community Development and a Peaceful Environment;
- Education and Skills Development;
- Family Focused Programmes;
- Health and Wellness;
- Poverty Alleviation;
- Social Inclusion;
- Sustainable Livelihoods;
- Youth Development, Sports and Recreation.

A discourse on each of these terms is provided as introductory statements for the sub-sections in the ensuing pages. For the purpose of this document, social sector activities have been further categorized into:

## a) Programmes:

This refers to projects i.e. a temporary endeavour with a pre-determined start and end time that is undertaken to create a unique product or service. E.g. Relocation of Socially Displaced Elderly Persons to Homes for Older Persons, or a system of projects or services intended to meet a public/ social need. e.g. the Public Assistance Programme;

## b) Initiatives:

This refers to either: a) the work of a body, authority, council, committee / joint-committee, association, task force, tribunal or organization (whether incorporated or unincorporated) that is established to address social issues by, or in accordance with the provisions of a policy, an Act, or regulations made under an Act or law, that is appropriately ratified by the President and / or Cabinet e.g. the Children's Authority; b) activities such as public consultations, town meetings, observance of significant days and, open fora discussions or; c) development of social sector policies or the conduct of surveys / studies on social issues.<sup>50</sup>

The Review will focus on all social programmes that have significantly contributed to the social well-being of our citizenry. This section will report on the major achievements of a number of programmes along with the outputs as measured by the respective budgeted allocations and estimated expenditure. A total of 104 programmes were in operation for fiscal 2006.

Table IX shows a comparison of budgeted allocations and estimated expenditure for fiscal 2006, on social initiatives of key social sector delivery Ministries and the Tobago House of Assembly. Appendix IX is also relevant.

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<sup>50</sup> A policy is herein defined as: a document outlining a set of principles/ a course of action chosen by public authorities to address a given problem or set of interrelated problems e.g. National Plan of Action for Children.



## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

**Table IX: Comparison of Budgeted Allocations and Estimated Expenditure for fiscal 2006, On Social Interventions of Key Social Sector Delivery Ministries and Key Divisions within the Tobago House of Assembly**

Ministry	Budget Allocations 2006	Estimated Expenditure 2006	% of Budgeted Allocation Estimated to be spent
Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs	\$76,600,200.00	\$78,658,700.00	103%
Ministry of Education	\$251,218,000.00	\$251,140,000.00	100%
Ministry of Health	\$227,150,572.00	\$244,547,769.00	108%
Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education	\$489,068,000.00	\$473,568,000.00	98%
Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs	\$51,202,072.00	\$47,068,900.00	92%
Ministry of Social Development	\$1,826,187,958.00	\$1,520,927,376.00	83%
Tobago House of Assembly	\$47,446,888.00	\$49,583,896.00	105%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,968,873,690.00</b>	<b>\$2,665,494,641.00</b>	<b>90%</b>

Source: Ministry of Finance (Budgets Division)

Ninety percent (90%) of the total budget allocation to social programmes and other initiatives in the key Social Sector Ministries and similar Divisions of the Tobago House of Assembly in fiscal 2006 was expected to be utilized. It should be noted that Government also allocated additional funding to the Ministries in the sector for implementation of programmes following the mid-term review. This accounts for the recording of estimated expenditure at 108% of the budgeted allocation for the Ministry of Health, 105% for the Tobago House of Assembly. The Ministries of Education and Science, Technology and Tertiary Education were poised to spend close to the entire sum of their budgeted allocation.

Of the key social sector Ministries, the Ministry of Social Development received the highest proportion of the total budgetary allocation toward social interventions, 61%. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education received the second largest allocation approximately 16% of the budgeted allocation for the period. The results indicate that the Ministries' performance as regards outputs, the ability to conduct the various programmes over the fiscal period, is commendable. The challenge exists in the ability to measure the outcomes to determine the impact on the standard of

living of various client groups and by extension, the level of poverty. As the implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Policy for the Social Sector takes momentum in fiscal 2007, the requisite mechanisms for assessing the impact of the investment in social programmes will be established.

Table X below indicates the beneficiary achievements for selected programmes in fiscal 2006. The programmes included in the table fall within the developmental type category of programmes which were focused on skills training and sustainable livelihoods, as Government sought to reduce the vulnerability of the less fortunate and disadvantaged groups in society.

Most of the programmes fell short of the number of beneficiaries targeted for the fiscal year. A number of factors were cited for this occurrence including human resource constraints in the divisions with responsibility for operations of the various programmes. Only one programme surpassed the targeted number of beneficiaries for fiscal 2006, the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP).

Table XI below provides a breakdown of the number of male

## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

and female persons benefiting from selected programmes in fiscal 2006. The table indicated that most of the youth oriented programmes have a high female participation rate with the exception of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and Helping You Prepare for Employment (HYPE) Programmes. In the case of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), there are sixty-nine percent more male participants than females. It must be noted that in the Helping You Prepare for Employment (HYPE) programme, the participation ratio of males to females is highly disproportionate with a ratio of 5:1, whereas in the Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP), the participation ratio is skewed in the opposite direction with a ratio of one male to 7 females (1:7).

In terms of Programmes which are not youth-related, females out number males in terms of participation in most of the programmes except for the Rehabilitation and Accommodation

of Deportees, Relocation of the Socially Displaced Elderly to Homes for Older Persons, Non-Traditional Skills Training for Women (which is geared to women) and Multi Based Community Telecentre (MCT) Programme. Female participation out numbers male participation in the Multi-Sector Skills Training Programme (MuST) and the Retraining Programme for Displaced Workers, where the male to female participation rates were 1:1.2 and 1:1.8 respectively.

The gender analysis of the beneficiaries of the programmes shows clearly the need for research to be undertaken in these areas to ascertain the reasons for the low male participation rates and to rectify the problem. In this regard, the Ministry of Social Development will be undertaking in fiscal 2007 a study of the Status of Males in Society which would investigate this phenomenon, among other related issues.

**Table X: Number and Type of Beneficiaries for Selected Programmes Fiscal 2006**

Beneficiary Group	Programme	Targeted Number of Beneficiaries 2006	Actual Number of Beneficiaries 2006	Diff. between Targeted and Actual Beneficiaries 2006
Youth	Helping You Prepare for Employment (HYPE)	1,500	1,236	(264)
	On the Job Training (OJT)	8,000	3,209	(4,791)
	Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP)	3,500	3,805	305
	Civilian Conservation Corps	3,200	1,843	(1,357)
Women	Women in Harmony	600	448	(152)
	Non-Traditional Skills Training for Women	1,100	600	(500)
	Export Centres	572	290	(282)
Unemployed/ Unskilled Individuals	Retraining Programme for Displaced Workers	1,200	722	(478)
	Multi Sector Skills Training Programme (MUST)	4,928	2,082	(2,846)
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>24,600</b>	<b>14,235</b>	<b>(10,365)</b>

Source: Ministries' Records

## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

**Table XI: Beneficiaries of Selected Programmes for fiscal 2006 Disaggregated according to Gender**

Programme Type	Programme	Male	Female	Total
Youth Programme	Youth Apprenticeship in Agriculture Programme (YAPA) Phase I (1st 3 quarters)	382	413	795
	Helping You Prepare for Employment (HYPE)	1,025	211	1,236
	On the Job Training Programme (OJT)	783	2,473	3,256
	Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP)	1,478	2,327	3,805
	Civilian Conservation Corps (1st 3 quarters)	1,092	751	1,843
	National Sport Festival	405	595	1,000
	Geriatric/Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP)	100	700	800
	Women and Girls in Sport	0	500	500
Other Programmes	Rehabilitation and Accommodation of Deportees (1st 2 quarters)	11	0	11
	Relocation of the Socially Displaced Elderly to Homes for Older Persons (1st 2 quarters)	9	3	12
	Non-Traditional Skills Training for Women	0	600	600
	Multi-Sector Skills Training Programme (MuST)	1,169	1,619	2,788
	Retraining Programme for Displaced Workers	217	411	628
	Multi Based Community Telecentre (MCT)	781	611	1,698

Source: Ministries' Records

## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

Table XII depicts a comparison of the Budgeted Allocations and Estimated Expenditure for fiscal 2006 of key social sector programmes. Fourteen (14) of the Seventeen Critical Training Programmes have been highlighted in the table. Appendix IX is also relevant.

In the developmental category eight programmes had estimated expenditure of 100% and four of these programmes are critical training programmes. Seventy percent (70%) of programmes in the developmental category were expected to spend over eighty percent (80%) of the budgeted allocations for the 2006 fiscal year. While most of the programmes in the developmental category have performed well for fiscal 2006 in terms of output, greater attention must be paid to

evaluating whether these programmes have met their stated objectives and have impacted the lives of the beneficiaries.

Under the remedial category, two of the five programmes had estimated expenditure of 100% of what was allocated for fiscal 2006, which include Old Age Pension and the Disability Assistance Grant. The Conditional Cash Transfer Programme which replaced Social Help and Rehabilitative Efforts (SHARE) recorded a very low percentage of estimated expenditure consequent on the delay in the commencement of the programme.

In the preventive category the School Nutrition Programme spent 100% of its budgeted allocation and the Early Childhood Care and Education Programme received a further allocation in the Mid-Term Review.

## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

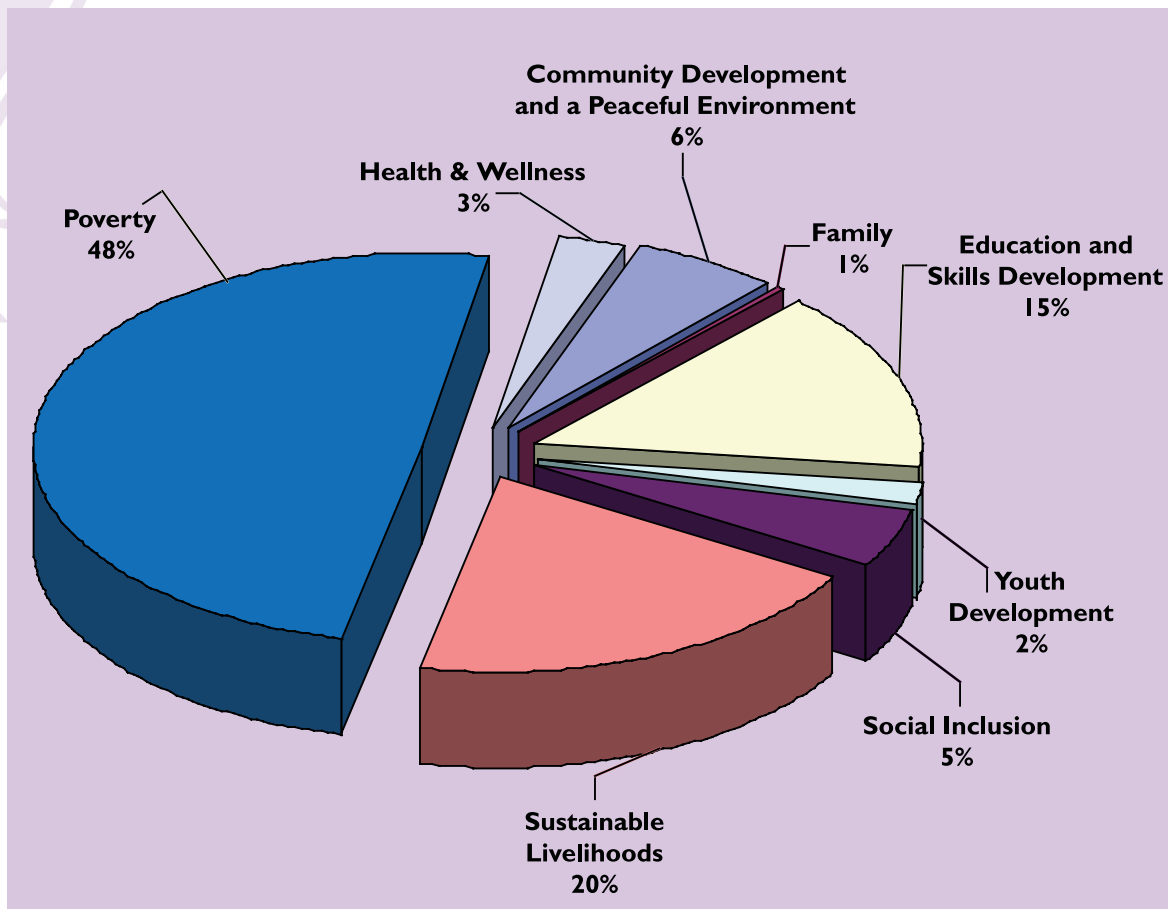
**Table XII: Comparison of Budgeted Allocations & Estimated Expenditure for Selected Social Programmes**

Programme	Budgeted Allocation 2006	Estimated Expenditure 2006	% Of Budgeted Allocation Estimated To BeSpent
<b>Developmental</b>			
* Adult Education/Lifelong Learning Unit	\$7,874,000.00	\$7,874,000.00	100%
* Civilian Conservation Corps	\$32,000,000.00	\$25,000,000.00	78%
Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses	\$250,000,000.00	\$250,000,000.00	100%
* Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE)	\$30,000,000.00	\$30,000,000.00	100%
Non-Traditional Skills Training for Women	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,699,037.00	85%
* On the Job Training (OJT)	\$84,000,000.00	\$80,000,000.00	95%
* Retraining Programme for Displaced Workers	\$14,000,000.00	\$12,500,000.00	89%
* Women in Harmony/Domestic Violence Programme	\$2,000,000.00	\$1,699,037.00	85%
* Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA)	\$6,000,000.00	\$4,500,000.00	75%
Youth Development and Apprenticeship Centres	\$26,019,072.00	\$21,735,900.00	84%
* Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP)	\$49,000,000.00	\$49,000,000.00	100%
* Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP)	\$9,000,000.00	\$5,477,400.00	61%
National Social Development Programme (NSDP)	\$200,000,000.00	\$200,000,000.00	100%
Community Action for Revival and Empowerment (CARE)	\$10,000,000.00	\$7,086,000.00	71%
Community Based Micro Enterprise Programme (Micro Enterprise Loan (MEL) Facility)	\$1,000,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	100%
* Community Education Programme	\$1,577,778.00	\$1,020,387.00	65%
* Export Centres Programme	\$7,000,000.00	\$6,733,400.00	96%
National Enterprise Development Company (NEDCO)	\$33,175,000.00	\$33,175,000.00	100%
Terminal Malls	\$2,500,000.00	\$2,000,000.00	75%
* Multi-Sector Skills Training Programme (MuST)	\$50,000,000.00	\$40,000,000.00	80%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$817,145,850.00</b>	<b>\$780,500,161.00</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Remedial</b>			
Disability Assistance Grant	\$152,000,000.00	\$152,000,000.00	100%
Old Age Pension Programme	\$1,032,750,000.00	\$1,032,750,000.00	100%
Public Assistance Programme	\$271,200,000.00	\$195,240,000.00	76%
* Transformation and Development Centers	\$3,000,000.00	\$885,412.00	30%
Social Help and Rehabilitative Efforts	\$50,000,000.00	\$46,500,000.00	93%
Conditional Cash Transfer Programme	\$250,000,000.00	\$24,000,000.00	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,758,950,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,451,375,412.00</b>	<b>95%</b>
<b>Preventive</b>			
School Nutrition Programme (Trinidad)	\$200,000,000.00	\$200,000,000.00	100%
Early Childhood Care and Education	\$20,100,000.00	\$22,222,000.00	110%
School Book Grants	\$10,000,000.00	\$5,000,000.00	50%
Student Support Services	\$12,700,000.00	\$7,700,000.00	61%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$242,800,000.00</b>	<b>\$234,922,000.00</b>	<b>97%</b>
* Critical Training Programmes			

Source: Ministries' records and Ministry of Finance (Budgets Division)

## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

**Figure IV: Total Programme Allocations by Thematic Area**



Source: Ministries' Records & Budgets Division, Ministry of Finance

Of the total budgeted allocation for programmes in fiscal 2006 under recurrent expenditure, 48% went towards poverty related programmes, followed by programmes focused on sustainable livelihoods (20%), education and skills development (15%) and community development and a peaceful environment (6%).

This demonstrates Government's commitment to reducing the level of poverty in the society and empowering the citizenry toward self-sufficiency, through the promotion of sustainable livelihoods. The investment in education and skills development is also an indicator of government's thrust in promoting these areas as catalysts for sustainable development. It should be noted that the percentage allocation to youth development seems miniscule since a number of programmes related to this target group were reflected in the education and skills training category.

### **Community Development & A Peaceful Environment**

The need for community development and a peaceful environment has been widely recognized and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has fully integrated this concept into its planning process for a developed nation by the year 2020. Government has promoted the development of communities, which will facilitate citizen participation in all aspects of social, economic and political life in an effort to sustain a peaceful environment.

Community Development is about process. Government's thrust therefore is about engaging the community by helping them to identify existing assets in the community, providing access to additional resources and information and by showing them how access to and use of those resources can contribute to sustainable, safe environments. Government



## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

provides support to community-based initiatives and self-help projects, as well as and infrastructural development at the level of the community. Decision-making processes within each community are therefore enhanced as a result of this assistance.

Government is cognizant of the fact that all communities have numerous distinct groupings of people. Through those groups, people act to achieve various interests and goals. Finding a common purpose and connecting those diverse individual groups is central to community development. Meeting these general needs contributes to the greater well being of the entire population. Thus, government investment in the activities of communities enhances local structures and/or institutions, as well as creates an environment for small business, entrepreneurial efforts, and other community based economic ventures.

Peaceful environments are an essential aspect of community development as it ensures that everyone within the community and those outside feel safe and secure. However, with the high incidence of crime, urbanization and change in moral values, a peaceful environment is increasingly becoming a challenging pursuit for all stakeholders within the society. The Government of Trinidad and Tobago recognizes, however, the importance of collaboration with communities to foster peaceful environments. Community Development and a Peaceful Environment for the purpose of this document can be defined as:

Initiatives with a primary focus on promoting the participation of communities of people in efforts to improve their standard of living, and the social conditions of their community. Communities are provided with technical assistance as required and are encouraged to engage in self-help, through the process of networking with community-based and organizations, as well as national agencies.

### Programme Achievements for Fiscal 2006

In fiscal 2006 a number of programmes and initiatives under this area of intervention were undertaken by the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and the Tobago House of Assembly as outlined below:

#### • Aided Self-Help Programme

This Programme, which is administered by the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, engages in the mobilization of the people of Trinidad and Tobago to improve their standard of living through self help activities. It provides poor communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago with building materials and other assistance to undertake infrastructural projects - communal building facilities, roads, water, electricity, and recreational facilities. Additionally, a Minor Repairs/Reconstruction Grant is also offered.

The objectives of this programme are:

- To build a spirit of self-reliance among impoverished communities;
- To improve the standard of living in communities;
- To alleviate poverty;
- To assist in identifying and sourcing resources needed to undertake self-help activities in impoverished communities; and
- To stimulate the development of community, industry and enterprise efforts in underprivileged areas.

During fiscal 2006 the total number of beneficiaries, was 42,304. In the 2006 fiscal year the budgeted allocation for the Aided Self Help Programme is \$18,600,200.00, of which \$15 million is dedicated towards developmental programmes and \$3,600,200.00 towards recurrent expenditure. The estimated expenditure is \$15,970,000.00. Eighty thousand persons are targeted to benefit from this programme in fiscal 2007.

## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

### • Community Action for Revival and Empowerment (CARE)

CARE was established to encourage a more holistic and integrated approach to development and to simultaneously promote co-ordination and partnerships between communities and Ministries. CARE is a programme of the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs which adheres to the core principles of community development.

The objectives of CARE are:

- To ensure expeditious attention and action to the social, economic, cultural and sporting needs of communities;
- To facilitate the development of critical community intervention projects;
- To revive and empower communities; and
- To facilitate the development of critical community intervention projects.

In the 2006 fiscal year the budgeted allocation for the CARE programme is \$10,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$7,086,000.00. One hundred and ninety eight (198) projects and activities received financial assistance for the first half of 2006.

### • Community Concerts

The objectives of Community Concerts are as follows:

- To unearth and give exposure to latent talent in the performing arts;
- To select members of communities with demonstrated competence in the performing arts for further training and performance opportunities;
- To facilitate the development of their skills and abilities in the performing arts;
- To facilitate the transfer of skills, experience and knowledge as well as provide motivation for local performers to improve their performances;
- To complement and enhance the Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy Competition; and
- To stimulate interest and mobilize support for the Prime Minister's Best Village Competitions and Exhibitions.

The Community Concerts Programme also aims to sustain interest in the local art forms during periods outside of the Prime Minister's Best Village Competitions and Exhibitions and to promote stage production as a viable economic venture.

The main beneficiaries of this initiative are skilled persons within the communities who are desirous of expressing a cultural talent on the national level. One hundred (100) communities benefited from this programme during fiscal 2006. The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$2,589,515.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$2,407,093.00. The Community Concerts Programme will target 120 communities in fiscal 2007.

### • Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy Competition

This programme is designed to promote the development, enhancement and preservation of the nation's diverse and indigenous cultures. It exposes the nation's cultural and other art forms on the national stage to allow people in the communities to develop a greater awareness and appreciation for the customs, rituals, folklore, oral traditions and other heritage of their neighbours. It is a major vehicle for 'community development' through the processes of cohesion, integration and empowerment.

The objectives of this competition which falls under the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs are:

- to empower communities;
- to encourage a sense of national pride, community spirit and community enlistment through healthy competition and social interaction;
- to bring together the people of Trinidad and Tobago; to expose and encourage the creativity of the citizenry in their food and artistic talents.

The main beneficiaries are communities; Non Governmental Organizations; persons operating small businesses; and community leaders.

During fiscal 2006, 65 community groups competed in the Traditions of Carnival; 100 community groups engaged in sporting and novelty activities in the Village Olympics; 200 groups gathered over a three day period to exhibit local

## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

foods and art and craft; 160 community groups and their Village Belles represented villages throughout the country in the Folk Festival and La Reine Rive competition with the finals being held in the Queen's Park Savannah; 35 Camps with children between 6-18 years averaging a hundred children per camp were taught the history, cuisine, art and craft and performance styles of the diverse people who settle here. This activity culminated in a National Exposition of local arts and culture. The budgeted allocation for this programme in fiscal 2006 is \$7,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$4,848,043.00. The targeted number of beneficiaries for fiscal 2007 is 300 communities.

### • Community Development Fund (CDF)

Focused on contributing to sustainable development primarily through the development of infrastructure for social services delivery to the poor and vulnerable, the CDF seeks to foster a self-reliant entrepreneurial spirit within communities; to implement comprehensive strategies to eradicate poverty, especially in rural areas; and to facilitate job creation especially in rural communities. The main beneficiaries of this programme are communities and their agencies, whether NGOs, CBOs and FBOs.

The Community Development Fund (CDF) funded forty nine (49) ongoing community organizations and provided "one off" grants to eleven organizations in various poverty alleviation initiatives which include training for skills and funding employment initiatives during fiscal 2006. The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$12,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$8,380,000.00.

### • Community Enhancement and Regeneration Programme (CERP)

CERP seeks to strengthen community life and community institutions through the implementation of Programmes to provide communities with water services, electricity and multi-purpose social and recreational amenities. The objectives of this programme are:

- To develop, in consultation with community leaders, a priority of needs which would inform the

programme of work;

- To identify low income communities which are deprived of basic physical amenities, for an intense and co-ordinate programme of physical improvement works;
- To provide financial and material resources and facilitate mutual interest community support for the programme; and
- To promote an integrated approach to the physical and social component of the programme.

The programme beneficiaries are communities selected for attention on the basis of conventional poverty indicators and visible signs of physical neglect. During fiscal 2006 the communities which were focused on included: John John, Rock City (Laventille), Lanse Forumi, Sea Lots and La Tosca (Guico/Tamana). The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$2,800,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$407,599.00.

### • Refurbishment of Community Centres

This programme seeks to refurbish Community Centres that have been in existence over a long period of time and are in an advanced state of disrepair, and/or whose accommodation facilities do not now fulfil expanded present-day community needs. The objective is to provide adequate and user friendly accommodation for community activities. During 2006 refurbishment commenced and continued on the following Community Centres- Brooklyn, Bon Air; West, Arima; Cane Farm; La Fortune San Raphael; and Red Hill D'abadie. In total eight community centers benefited from this programme in fiscal 2006. The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$2,439,855.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$695,647.00. Twenty community centres will be refurbished under this programme in fiscal 2007.

### • Community Safety and Enhancement Programme

The Community Safety and Enhancement Programme under the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs is designed to promote community safety and security

## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

through the establishment of crime prevention structures and the implementation of projects and programmes with resource support from internal and external sources.

The objectives are:

- To establish and sustain community safety and enhancement programme groups;
- To provide guidelines for the development of crime prevention strategies adaptable to the needs of the specific community;
- To encourage the development of proactive programmes and projects aimed at crime prevention;
- To disseminate information and organize educational and public relations activities in order to give expression to the goal of the programme;
- To access resource support for the implementation of activities; and to develop mechanisms for assisting victims of crime.

All communities, especially those where there is a high incidence of criminal activity benefit from this programme.

During fiscal 2006 Safety and Enhancement desks were established at Laventille, Diego Martin, Chaguanas, La Romain and Beetham Estate and thirty-two CSE groups have been formed. The services offered during this period include life-skills training sessions with gangs to change their feelings about crime and the justice system, beginner classes with gang members to increase their literacy skills, information dissemination and advising members of the public on crime prevention strategies. The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$1,200,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$510,924.00. In fiscal 2006, 35 communities benefited from this programme while 150 communities are targeted for fiscal 2007. An estimated 1,200 individuals directly benefited from this programme during the period under review.

### • Community Mediation Programme

The Community Mediation Programme was established on the basis of the Mediation Act 2004 and is a method of resolving disputes between parties with the assistance and facilitation of a third party or mediator. The mission of the Community Mediation Centres is to empower individuals, groups and

communities to resolve disputes through dialogue in a non-threatening environment. The objectives of this initiative are:

- To foster a speedy, inexpensive and amicable resolution of conflicts.
- To promote restorative justice.
- To provide solutions to current conflicts in a non-threatening atmosphere that encourages mutual respect, understanding and compromise.
- To work with communities and individuals to positively impact on the attitudes and behaviours that give rise to conflict.
- To work with communities, collectively or individually according to their needs, towards a more peaceful society.
- To implement outreach programmes which would assist in ensuring sustained positive behavioural change in communities and the restoration of good quality relationships among individuals in families and communities.

The Community Mediation Services was launched on April 26th 2006 with the opening of three main Mediation Centres in Cunupia, Port-of-Spain and Point Fortin. The San Juan Sub Centre is also open and has been receiving clients. Community outreach services were held in the communities where centres were opened to sensitize the residents about the programme. An assessment tool was developed to assist in determining the impact of the programme.

The Couva Social Services Centre Vacation Camp with staff from the Community Mediation Division facilitated six (6) sessions and exposed campers to information on Mediation; Anger Management; and Communication and Peer Pressure. A Mediation sub centre will also be opened at the Couva Social Services Centre.

In fiscal 2007, the Division will continue its efforts towards establishing Centres throughout Trinidad. Ten additional Centres will be established and the community outreach programme will be intensified. The Budgeted allocation for the 2006 fiscal year is \$ 300,000 and the estimated expenditure is \$50,829.00.

## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

### • Community Care Programme

The Community Care Programme, under the Ministry of Health, has as two overall objectives, in the first phase of the programme: i) the de-institutionalization of patients from public health institutions and ii) to work with residential care facility owners to bring homes to minimum operating standards. Information obtained during the conduct of this programme will inform the finalization of the Community Care Policy Framework.

Beneficiaries for the first half of the fiscal year 2006 were 396 patients. Estimated expenditure for this period is \$816,000.00.

### • School Intervention Strategies

The Ministry of Education is the Executing Agency that is responsible for co-ordinating programmes under the School Intervention Strategies. To ensure that students at all levels of the system truly benefit from free quality education, the Ministry provides a wide range of programmes through its Student Support Services Unit to cater to the material, psycho-social and emotional needs of students. Several of these programmes are delivered in conjunction with some of the Ministry's social partners including the Ministries of Health and Social Development.

- The Peace Promotion Programme includes Mediation/Conflict Resolution workshops; Homework Centres; Anger and Stress Management Training for secondary school teachers; Parenting Education; Alternative Skills-based Education and Driver Responsibility Education for young drivers. The key objectives of the programme are:
  - To create a culture of peace in schools and in the society at large in the long term;
  - To reconstruct the curriculum; and
  - To address the manifestations of violence in schools in the short- and medium-terms.

- This Programme targets all students, teachers and parents in the eight (8) Educational Districts. It aims to reduce violence and indiscipline in schools throughout the country. The programme includes several initiatives that are directed essentially to the four (4) main stakeholders in education – students, teachers, parents and the community
- In fiscal 2006, the School Intervention Strategies, under the Pre-Carnival Preparation Programme, held 110 workshops at schools throughout the country. A total of 20,000 students participated in these workshops, and there has been an increasing number of requests from school principals for additional workshops to be incorporated into the school timetable
- With reference to conflict resolution, under the Peer Mediation/Counselling Programme, 1,300 students participated in the workshops that were held. These students were drawn from 63 schools across Trinidad and Tobago.
- During the period October 2005 to June 2006 six (6) Homework Centres were established in the country. According to the register of students at each centre, a total of 130 students attended the sessions. However, the programme has been affected by difficulties encountered in locating new sites for additional centres.
- As part of the effort to intervene in the area of Anger and Stress Management, 120 teachers participated in workshops held by the School Intervention Strategies Division. The teachers were drawn from 45 secondary schools from across the country. The feedback from the workshops was positive, as there was a request for additional workshops to be incorporated into the official school timetable. In addition, 400 teachers from 10 primary schools were participants in the Supporting Teachers Programme. There was also a call for an



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increase in the number of workshops on offer through this programme. It is expected that in the new fiscal year, the programme will overcome the constraints of inadequate training space.

A total of twenty-five community leaders completed courses in leadership training in 2005/2006, and projects based on what they learnt were developed in their respective communities. An additional 1,200 parents received training in parenting education during the same period. There has been an increased demand from Parents/Teachers Associations and school principals for more courses, including follow-up by an established non-governmental organization comprising trained leaders. In general, the Community Leaders/Parenting Education courses were weakened because of the logistics of organizing.

- In fiscal 2006, under the Alternative Education Programme, which is essentially a skills-based programme, courses were designed and curricula were started. Four thousand (4,000) students and 300 teachers successfully completed courses during the period under review.
- The Respect Pillar Initiative was launched as part of the "Together We Light the Way" Programme in 2006. The initiative was introduced to 3,000 students and a total of 100 teachers were trained. The programme will continue in the new fiscal year with the assistance of a consultant.
- A series of courses in driver responsibility were designed in 2006, and contracts for 20 schools were completed. The Driver Responsibility Education Programme is ongoing and will continue in fiscal 2007.
- The Secondary School Support Service commenced at forty-five (45) secondary Schools with assigned Guidance Officers. As of the end of June 2006, To

date, 30,823 students were exposed to sessions in Career, Personal/Social and Academic Guidance; 2,516 parents participated in parent education seminars every quarter; 250 teachers participated in In-Service Training on Adolescent Development issues and 1,136 students referred to Guidance Officers for various personal/social concerns. An Out of School Suspension Programme was established at two (2) centres – Victoria and St. George East Districts.

The budgeted allocation for the School Intervention Strategies programme in 2006 is \$2,100,000.00 with an estimated expenditure of \$1,427,750.00

### **Tobago** **• Assistance to Community Organizations**

This programme provides for the training, promotion of activities and the purchase of small equipment to enhance the economic and social growth of community groups registered with the Division of Community Development and Culture, Village Councils, NGOs and other voluntary organizations. In fiscal 2006, subventions were granted to the Tobago Scout Council, Trinidad and Tobago Society for the Prevention for the Cruelty to Animals (TTSPCA), Association of Village Councils and the Tobago Literacy Unit, with estimated expenditure of \$146,405.00. The Division of Community Development and Culture also provided financial assistance to Youth Sports Civic Clubs and other NGOs with estimated expenditure in fiscal 2006 at \$186,263.00.

### **• Assistance to Cultural Organizations**

This programme is intended to assist members of various cultural groups- steel bands, dance, choirs, etc, to purchase musical instruments and to pay stipends to tutors. In fiscal 2006 assistance was provided as follows:

- Eighteen (18) dance groups and choirs;
- Four (4) individuals received;
- Eight (8) Steel Orchestras;
- Two other community organizations.



In total, estimated expenditure for fiscal 2006 amounted to approximately \$380,364.00

### Education and Skills Development

In fiscal 2006, in the effort to strategically target and eliminate identified social ills, such as poverty, unemployment and social exclusion, Government embarked on significant investment in human resource development, to create greater opportunities for skills enhancement, education, personal growth and self-actualization among the citizenry. This is in keeping with the Vision 2020 development priority of developing an innovative people, thereby facilitating internal sustainability, as well as global competitiveness, and creating greater opportunities for advancement for all persons. During the period under review, the Ministry of Education's focus continued to be the creation of a framework for a Seamless Education System to provide the citizenry with a level of service which is quality, relevant, equitable and accessible. The implementation of the Seamless System arising from this framework is now being managed by a Joint Inter-Ministerial Team comprising the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Science Technology and Tertiary Education.

During the past fiscal year, several programmes and projects supported the Ministry of Education's strategic priorities to:

1. Provide accessible quality educational opportunities for all;
2. Deliver quality education to citizens at all levels of the education system;
3. Develop sustainable policy for the education sector;
4. Promote skills development;
5. Continuously align the strategic direction in the education system with the objectives set for National Development; and
6. Expand opportunities for citizens to participate in tertiary and technical education.

Notwithstanding the availability of opportunities for training through each social sector Ministry, the responsibility for co-ordinating skills development and training at the national level, falls under the purview of the Ministries of Education and Science, Technology and Tertiary Education. However, this does not negate the importance of inter-sectoral collaboration and networking among social-sector Ministries. The Vision 2020 Sub-Committee Report on Skills Training, which informed the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, emphasizes this point with the observation that skills development is but one requirement for achieving the goal of developed country status. It is requisite, however, that any investment in human resources should be supported by the creation of sufficient, and appropriate, opportunities for employment.

The Tertiary Education Framework for Action adds to this vision by advocating that education should become the engine of development. The objective would be to create a culture of lifelong learning that thrives on inter-sectoral collaboration. The Framework for Science, Technology and Innovation takes this one step further by espousing the need for sustainable growth and entrepreneurship through the embracing of technology transfer, absorption, adaptation and innovation. The expected outcome is the development of an innovative people in Trinidad and Tobago with a significantly improved quality of life.

A key focal area of this government, as mentioned above, continues to be the development of the human resource capacity of the country by equipping citizens with appropriate tools that will enable them to adapt to the changing and dynamic environment in which we live. In 2006 therefore, Government placed considerable emphasis on what it referred to as the seventeen (17) critical training programmes. These are outlined in Box XI below. Strategy for improvement of these programmes is the development of mechanisms to facilitate stringent monitoring, improve the levels of implementation in the social sector, and ensure the continued relevance of each programme.

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### Box XI: The Seventeen (17) Critical Training Programmes

- Community Education (Skills Development) Programme
- Export Centres Programme
- Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP)
- Non-Traditional Skills Training for Women
- Transformation and Development Centres
- Women in Harmony
- Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA)
- Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)
- Military-Led Academic Training Programme (MILAT)
- Military-Led Youth Programme of Apprenticeship (MYPART)
- Helping You Prepare for Employment (HYPE)
- Multi-Sector Skill Training Programme (MuST)
- On-the-Job Training Programme (OJT)
- Retraining Programme
- Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP)
- The Adult Education Programme
- The Patient Care Assistants Programme (PCA)

## Programme Achievements for Fiscal 2006

The following programmes under the purview of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of National Security and the Tobago House of Assembly were in operation in fiscal 2005/2006, with a view towards higher education and skills development throughout the nation. The seventeen critical training programmes are highlighted for emphasis and easy identification as indicated by (✓).

### ✓ Adult Education Programme

The Adult Education Programme falls under the purview of the Ministry of Education. The programme contributes to the development of the nation's human resources through the provision of basic education involving literacy and numeracy, certified technical vocational training at the National Examinations Council (N.E.C.) Level I and C.X.C. and G.C.E. certified courses. Leisure time courses are also available in

floral arrangement, ceramics, book binding, handicraft, and drapery design. The programme is conducted in forty-six (46) Lifelong Learning Centres located in various communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

The key objectives of the programme include:

- Increasing access to quality education opportunities for all citizens;
- Promoting skills development, in order to increase employability, entrepreneurship and the development of meaningful contributors to the global environment;
- Promoting partnership building at the local, national and regional levels, between public authorities and education service providers, the business sector and other social partners;
- Establishing a Community Learning Network throughout Trinidad and Tobago; and
- Creating a sustainable culture of lifelong learning throughout the nation.

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The programme is accessible by members of the national community 15 years and over who are willing to learn. No previous educational qualifications are required.

In 2005/2006, a total of 3,500 students enrolled in the following courses at the CXC level: English Language, Mathematics, Principles of Accounts, Principles of Business and Social Studies. The students sat the CXC examinations for the respective subjects in May/June 2006 as private students.

With reference to Primary School Leaving Certification, a total of 250 students enrolled in this programme for the period under review. Primary school leaving examinations were held in June 2006.

Four thousand three hundred and fifty students (4,350) enrolled in thirty (30) National Examination Council (NEC) Level I courses. Junior Assessment for the NEC was conducted in June 2006. The budgeted allocation for the programme in fiscal 2006 is \$7,874,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$7,874,000.00.

### ✓ Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA) – Phase I

The Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources (MALMR) continues to focus on the expansion and development of the nation's human resources in the agricultural sector. In light of the global challenges presented in the sector, as well as a domestic reluctance towards entrepreneurial involvement, the government considers YAPA to be critical to the survival of the agricultural sector. It therefore targets the youth population, between ages 18-25 years, and provides them with the technological knowledge and skills of the business of agriculture. The programme assists the participants to set up their enterprise by providing support in areas such as availability of land, market considerations, availability of credit and irrigation/drainage.

The programme's key objectives are:

- To provide youths with an opportunity to become involved in farming;
- To encourage the pursuit of agriculture as a lucrative business; and
- To expose youths to theoretical and practical on-farm aspects of agriculture.

As a result, participants are trained in Crop Production, Livestock Production, and Ornamental Horticulture. During the period participants cultivate and harvest short-term crops, and also realize profits from the sale of their produce.

During the first two quarters of the fiscal year 2006, the programme was able to attract 261 male and 249 female participants. During the third quarter, 121 male and 164 female participants were engaged in the programme. The MALMR also collaborated with the Ministry of Health to allow trainees to benefit from lectures on the dangers of HIV/AIDS, and Alcohol and Drug Use/Abuse.

### ✓ Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA) – Phase II

Graduates from YAPA Phase I can continue into the Phase II which involves more practical training in agriculture. Participants are trained in general agricultural practices and infrastructure development. They also receive theoretical and practical training, as well as demonstrations and field trips.

The key objectives of YAPA – Phase II are:

- To provide opportunities for intensive training in specific aspects of agriculture – crop and livestock production;
- To assist persons in becoming agribusiness entrepreneurs and
- To increase youth involvement in agriculture.

During the period, 70 trainees cultivated a range of crops and produced livestock (poultry). Forty of these trainees had already realized profits from the sale of their produce by the third quarter of the fiscal year.

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The budgeted allocation for Phase I and II of YAPA for the fiscal year 2006 is \$6,000,000.00 and estimated expenditure is \$4,500,000.00.

### ✓ **Export Centres Company**

The Export Centers is a wholly owned State Enterprise that was designed to promote employment through the revitalization of the handicraft industry in Trinidad and Tobago. This programme is administered by the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, and managed by a Board of Directors. Located in Terminal Malls, they create affordable marketing opportunities, particularly for those persons who benefited from skills training provided through the Community Education Programme.

The objectives are:

- To increase employment and the employable skill of citizens;
- To increase the marketability of the country as a producer of high quality craft;
- To provide an avenue for foreign revenue;
- To protect the local handicraft market from foreign competitors;
- To revive a dying craft and other indigenous art forms; and
- To produce innovative value added products at competitive prices and promote local flora, fauna, culture and heritage.

The main beneficiaries are unemployed, unskilled women, youth and single mothers between 25-30 years. This programme is available at Terminal Malls in San Juan, Curepe, Tunapuna and Arima.

During fiscal 2006 the services offered were training in Vocational Skills, Business Development Skills and Life Skills to 290 females. An achievement realized by the programme is that trainees have become more productive citizens due to their involvement in the Life Skills Programme. The programme delivery structure was redesigned to include two new courses- candle making and paper craft, in addition, and the programme is now divided into four zones. During fiscal 2006

there has been continued refurbishment and development training at Export Centres- with the Construction of drying sheds and boil out areas at the Fyzabad Centre and the renovation of the offices at the Mt. Hope Centre. The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$7,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$6,733,400.00.

### • **Community Development Scholarship Programme**

This Programme is a national platform for the award of bursaries to young persons to undertake Programmes of training and/or studies in traditional and non-traditional disciplines at local, regional and other institutions. The Community Development Scholarship Programme which falls under the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs seeks:

- To build human capacity within communities; and
- To improve and develop communities as viable and sustainable units for families and family life.

The main beneficiaries are young persons aged 18 years and over who are seeking to further studies in the technical, vocational and academic areas. In fiscal 2006, 140 individuals benefited from this programme. The budgeted allocation for 2006 is \$8,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is the same.

### ✓ **Community Education Programme**

The Community Education Programme provides training in a variety of marketable skills geared towards training persons for home-based production of goods and services and employment generation. The actual achievements of the Community Education Programme include training 13,561 participants, 1,873 Community Leaders acquiring leadership skills and the successful launch of 49 small business initiatives. The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$1,577,778.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$1,020,387.00

The main objectives of the programme are to decrease the level of unskilled persons in local communities and to improve the chances of the unemployed to find employment in existing

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organisations or by creating employment opportunities for themselves. During fiscal 2006, the services offered to beneficiaries were training in Technical/Vocational Skills, training in Group Leadership Development and Management, Community Awareness and Sensitization Programme, Micro Enterprise Development Management and Handicraft Management as outlined below.

- The Community Sensitization and Awareness Programme acts as a mechanism for the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs to interface with stakeholders to jointly develop projects, empower communities and strengthen links with community partners. Programmes are implemented via a number of media including lecture/discussions, public meetings, seminars and workshops, marches, parades and demonstrations. The objective is to provide relevant information on a multiplicity of subjects that have significant bearing on the day to day lives of residents in local communities. For 2006, 340 programme involving 44,697 persons were implemented in the eight administrative districts. This represents 78% of the target set of 576 Community Sensitization and Awareness Programmes.
- The Group Leadership Development Programme is to facilitate community empowerment by sustaining, reviving and strengthening community-based organizations. The main beneficiaries are community based leaders. During the first half of fiscal 2006, 144 programs involving 4,237 leaders of voluntary community-based organizations were conducted.
- The Community Skills Bank Programme focuses on the promotion of an equitable distribution of non formal educational opportunities for the people in local communities, as it seeks to harness people's latent talent and skills and redirect their creative energies into paths that lead to empowerment. It also provides relevant data on the level of unemployment and under employment that exists

in a district. The total number of beneficiaries benefiting from this programme was 11,697.

### ✓ Patient Care Assistants Programme

The Patient Care Assistants Programme was approved in June 2003 and entails the employment or contract of 2000 Patient Care Assistants by the Regional Health Authorities over a period of two (2) years in batches of 500 every six (6) months. This programme was established to meet the immediate needs for patient care on the wards and clinics as these medical facilities continue to face the growing shortage of nursing personnel. To date, the following batches have been employed:

Period	Beneficiaries
November 2003 – June 2004:	500
July 2004 – December 2004:	500
January 2005 – June 2005:	500
July 2005 – December 2005:	500

The cost of conducting this programme has amounted to \$ 7.9 million dollars for each six-month period. In fiscal 2006 the North West Regional Health Authority (NWRHA) trained at least 341 persons under the Patient Care Assistants Programme.

### ✓ Non-Traditional Skills Training for Women

This programme under the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs aims to provide technical and vocational education and training to low income women. The programme provides a total of 320 hours of training on a six month part time basis and comprises three components: training, job placement and program promotion. The focus of the training is in the areas of Domestic Appliance Repair and Maintenance, Small Engine Repair and Maintenance, Electrical Installation, Masonry/Bricklaying/Tiling, Upholstery, Plumbing, Welding. The objective of Non-Skills Training is to increase the level of skilled labour available in the country by providing access and employment opportunities to low income women. The main beneficiaries are women/girls,



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who are unemployed and underemployed, or low income females between 18 – 50 with little or no qualifications or skills. Applicants must not possess more than 4 CXC O'level subjects to qualify for this Programme.

In fiscal 2006, 600 women benefited from this training programme. One of the achievements of this programme is that there was a low drop out rate. The budgeted allocation for 2006 is \$2,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$1,699,037.00. The targeted number of beneficiaries for fiscal 2007 is 800.

### ✓ Women in Harmony

This Training Programme which falls under the purview of the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, focuses on the development of low income women with limited or no skills, particularly single female heads of households and women in abusive situations. The objective is to equip participants with a marketable skill which can be utilized to enhance their economic choices and livelihood options and to enhance participants' capacity to cope with the challenges of their particular circumstances via exposure to modules on self-development and lifestyle.

Participants are women between 26 and 45 years. The services offered during fiscal 2006 are Elderly Care, Agriculture/Landscaping and Life Skills Training which included theory and practical training. The number of women who benefited from this programme is 448. Achievements of Women in Harmony include partnering with Servol, NEDCO, ALTA and the Police and Fire Services; agricultural products were donated to orphanages, low income households; strengthening of family life and communities and the building of community life and activities. The total budgeted allocation for 2006 is \$2,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$1,800,000.00. The targeted number of beneficiaries for fiscal 2007 is 600 women.

### • Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses (GATE)

The Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses Programme (GATE) was introduced as a replacement to the Dollar for

Dollar (DfD) Plan in September 2004. It was designed to provide financial assistance to students aged 16 years and over; who were successfully enrolled in approved programmes of study at recognized tertiary level institutions (TLIs).

The objectives of the GATE programme are:

- To make tertiary education affordable to all so that no citizen of Trinidad and Tobago will be denied tertiary education because of their inability to pay;
- To widen access to tertiary education that will support economic development and promote social equity; and
- To build and strengthen a national quality tertiary education sector through both public and private tertiary institutions.

Effective January 1, 2006, the provisions of the GATE programme were revised, with the abolition of the Means Test Questionnaire, and a new offer of 100% of tuition fees to students in public and private institutions. In addition, postgraduate students in both categories of institutions receive 50% of tuition expenses, up to a maximum of \$10,000 for students attending private institutions.

Between October 2005 and January 2006, a total of 34,745 applications for assistance were submitted by students enrolled at tertiary institutions. Additionally, the programme had expanded from 285 approved study programmes to 325 programmes, an increase of 12.3%. This increase also reflected the inclusion of ten (10) additional private tertiary institutions that offer GATE-approved courses, changing the total number of such institutions from twenty-three (23) to thirty-three (33).

While the revised GATE programme contributed to the increase of the national participation rate in tertiary education in 2005/2006, it was challenged by inadequacies in staffing, the financial operating structure for operational expenses, and the system of reimbursement to tertiary institutions. A review of the programme has been recommended and improvements have been scheduled for fiscal 2007. In the period 2006/2007, efforts will focus on strengthening the administration of the



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programme. Some of the measures that will be undertaken are as follows:

- Existing vacancies will be filled;
- The financial operating structure for operating expenses will be reviewed, inclusive of reimbursement system;
- The Tuition Fee structure will be reviewed with a view to standardizing fees among private TLIs.

For 2006/2007, it is anticipated that the number of approved TLIs would be increased. Fifteen applications have been received from private TLIs seeking admissions into the Programme. The budgeted allocation for the programme for fiscal 2006 is \$250,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$250,000,000.00.

### ✓ Multi-Sector Skills Training Programme (MuST)

The Multi-Sector Skills Training Programme (MuST) is a specialized craft-training programme that is designed to develop competent, certified workers in priority sectors of the national economy. The programme seeks to develop a cadre of competent workers within priority sectors of the national economy. Based on labour market surveys conducted by the National Training Agency (NTA), three sectors have been identified as having shortages of skilled labour: The Construction Sector, The Hospitality and Tourism Sector, and the Agriculture Sector. The programme goals are:

- To train five thousand (5,000) unemployed nationals

in a cycle of training; and

- To provide two (2) cycles of training per year.

The programme is structured in terms of a work-based, day-release model of training that provides occupational skills, life skills and functional literacy and numeracy training to nationals between the ages of 18 and 50 years in the following categories: the unemployed, the economically disadvantaged, the achievement motivated, the differently-abled, re-entrants to productive society and displaced workers.

The MuST Programme is structured in terms of a partnership arrangement between the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, private sector partners in the identified priority sectors of the economy and the National Training Agency. On successful completion of the programme trainees are provided with the Trinidad and Tobago National Vocational Qualification (TTNVQ). The TTNVQ facilitates progress to a higher level of training as required, as well as the movement of skilled labour across the Caribbean through the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) initiative.

The MuST programme created 2,082 opportunities for beneficiaries between October 2005 and March 2006. In April 2006, cabinet approval was given for the expansion of the programme to provide training to an additional 1,600 trainees per cycle, thus doubling the number to 3,200 trainees per cycle for the Construction Sector (see Table XIII below).

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**Table XIII: Summary Statistics on MuST Programme for the period May 2005-September 2006**

Cycles	Period Of Cycles	No Of Males Completed Training	No. Of Female Completed Training	Total No. Completed Training
8	JULY-DEC 05	28	52	80
10	JULY-DEC 05	157	169	326
12	SEPT-FEB 06	10	98	108
13	AUG-FEB 06	138	175	313
14	SEPT-MAR 06	135	180	315
15	OCT-APR 06	158	162	320
16	JAN-JUNE 06	35	57	92
18	JAN-JUNE 06	164	169	333
20	MAR –AUG 06	25	192	217
21	FEB-AUG 06	148	186	334
22	MAR-SEPT 06	171	179	350
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1169</b>	<b>1619</b>	<b>2788</b>

Source: Social and Economic Policy Framework (Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education 2007-2009)

Of the total number 2,788 persons benefited from the programme in fiscal 2006, 1,169 (42%) were males and 1,619 (58%) were females. TTNVQ certification was awarded to 1,752 participants. The budgeted allocation for the programme during fiscal 2006 is \$50,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$40,000,000.00.

As a result of an increase in applications to the programme, more instructors were hired and additional cycles were run. However, a major constraint to the programme was the difficulty encountered in acquiring suitable venues for training. In fiscal 2007, an expansion of the MuST programme is proposed through the location and acquisition of offsite centres with adequate facilities, and the hiring of Guidance Counselors who have training in the provision of Life Skills.

In the new fiscal year, the MuST programme is set to be expanded with the introduction of training in agriculture at the end of April 2007. The gaps in the demand for skilled and semiskilled workers in the construction sector will also be addressed in fiscal 2007 from two (2) perspectives as follows:

- (i) The Ministry will expand the Level 1 component of the MuST programme by doubling the targeted number of persons trained from 1,600 trainees per six-month cycle to 3,200 trainees per six-month cycle; and
- (ii) The introduction of a Level 2 training component of MuST programme will cater to seven (7) cycles, and a trainee population of 11,200 persons per year.

The Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education will also continue to offer training in Hospitality and Tourism as part of the MuST programme during fiscal 2007.

### ✓ Helping You Prepare for Employment (HYPE)

HYPE is a programme under the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education which provides skills training to persons who have left the secondary school system and have been unable to find employment because they do not possess the necessary level of academic achievement or technical skills to make them employable. The objectives are to create workmen/women with advanced skills who

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are capable of working autonomously with a high degree of confidence and competence; to prepare workmen/women for the roles of supervisors and foremen; and to prepare participants for a licence in the electrical and plumbing field.

The beneficiaries are young people ages of 17-25 who did not complete or were unsuccessful in their secondary education. During the fiscal 2006, 1,025 young men and 211 young women benefited from HYPE. The budgeted allocation is \$ 30 million with an estimated expenditure of \$12,517,784.00. National Centers are located in Macoya, Sangre Grande, La Romain and Tobago.

### ✓ On the Job Training (OJT)

The On the Job Training (OJT) programme is a pre-employment training programme which aims to offer participants an induction into the world of work. The programme focuses on the acquisition of work-based training and experience, as well as the development of life skills.

The key objectives of this programme are:

- To provide individuals aged 16 to 30 years with job skills and work-based training opportunities that would offer them a foothold in the employment market; and
- To match the academic and vocational skills of prospective trainees with labour market needs.

The programme also includes a Life Skills training component, and counseling services are available to trainees as required.

A total of 3,256 persons benefited from the OJT programme between October 2005 and May 2006. Twenty-four percent (24%) (783 trainees) of the total number of beneficiaries were males and 76% (2,473 trainees) were females. A further five (5) trainees (1 male and 4 females) were persons with disabilities. During the period under review, 3,209 trainees were successfully placed in public and private sector organizations throughout the country.

The administrators of the OJT programme were faced with two (2) major constraints, namely, a severe shortage

of staff and inadequate accommodation. As a result of the staff shortage, the OJT Unit was unable to achieve the target number of beneficiaries. The lack of suitable accommodation made it impossible to provide Counselling and Life Skills training to the trainees. A proposal for the revision of the staff structure of the OJT programme has therefore been drafted, in the attempt to address and resolve these issues in fiscal 2007.

A vigorous marketing strategy for the On the Job Training programme was pursued during fiscal 2006. For fiscal 2007 therefore, the target will be the placement of 9,000 trainees in public and private organizations.

Over the next medium term, the OJT Programme would persist in reaching for the target of placing 10,000 trainees. For 2007, the target is the placement of 8,000 trainees with incremental increases from 2008-2009. Additionally, some of the challenges faced by the Programme would be overcome so that targets could be attained. A draft plan for the upgrading of the OJT Programme has been prepared as part of the Ministry's Strategic Planning Initiative. The proposals include recommendations for augmenting the staff structure and adjustment of staff remuneration, to ensure qualitative and quantitative targets are achieved.

Additionally, some measures that are to be put in place in the period 2007- 2009 are as follows:

- Contract of Counselling services for the benefit of Trainees who are facing significant social/ psychological challenges which impact negatively on their lives and work performance; and the
- Reimbursement of private sector Training Providers with 50% of the Trainee stipend at all levels.

Overall, the OJT programme benefited from improved efficiency in delivery through further computerization, the fine-tuning of systems, and an increase in direct and media-based marketing. The budgeted allocation for the programme in 2006 is \$84,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$80,000,000.00.

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### ✓ The Retraining Programme for Displaced Workers

The Retraining Programme for Displaced Workers is yet another one of the developmental programmes under the aegis of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education. It is one of the seventeen (17) critical social sector programmes and targets retrenched workers, training them in new skills and preparing them for work in an industrial environment. The programme focuses on re-tooling and re-skilling persons between the ages of 25 to 45 years to enhance their opportunities to access sustainable employment and self-employment.

The main objectives of the programme include:

- To promote life-long learning by retraining persons who have been displaced or retrenched;
- To re-skill displaced workers for more productive service in the local economy; and
- To encourage a culture of enterprise among participants;
- To facilitate improved self-respect, self-esteem and confidence among trainees; and
- To train 900 persons in each fiscal year over three (3) cycles of training in at least thirteen (13) different skill areas.

In fiscal 2005/2006, the main services offered to beneficiaries were:

- Technical/Vocational Skills training;
- Life Skills training;
- Literacy training; and
- Mentorship.

In this current fiscal year the Retraining Programme conducted 3 cycles and introduced a new programme, 'Rehabilitating Inmates through Training and Retraining'. Cycle II was the first Cycle to be implemented in Tobago. There were nine (9) classes with an enrolment of one hundred (100) trainees. Ninety four (94) trainees completed the cycle, eighty-seven (87) women and seven (7) men.

Cycle III began with an enrolment of six hundred and sixty-six (666) trainees in fifty-four (54) classes covering a total of thirty-one (31) skill areas. Six hundred and twenty eight (628) trainees completed the cycle - that is two hundred and seventeen (217) men and four hundred and eleven (411) women. A breakdown according to regions is detailed in Table XIV below:

**Table XIV: Gender Breakdown of Beneficiaries in the Retraining Programme for Displaced Workers according to Regions**

Region	No. Of Males	No. Of Females	Total
North	56	93	149 (24%)
East	50	132	182 (29%)
Central	37	106	143 (23%)
South	74	80	154 (24%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>217</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>628</b>

Source: Social and Economic Policy Framework (Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education 2007-2009)

Six hundred and twenty-eight persons completed the programme in Trinidad, reflecting a graduation rate of 91% and 94 persons completed the programme in Tobago, reflecting a graduation rate of 90%. The target for fiscal 2005/2006 of 700 graduates was surpassed by 3.1% (722 graduates).

Overall, the programme has expanded in respect of its geographical coverage. In order to reach a greater percentage of persons in need of training, the programme was introduced in Tobago and rural communities in Trinidad, such as Mamoral, Talparo and Rio Claro, thereby facilitating greater national

## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

access. The scope of the Retraining Programme has also increased, in terms of course variety and the level of training conducted, so as to align the skills and competencies of beneficiaries with labour market requirements. In addition, National Occupational Standards were developed in a number of skill areas, in particular, Television and Video Production, Recording Engineering, Computer Repairs, Desktop Publishing, Barbering, Growbox and Aquaculture – ornamental and commercial.

The budgeted allocation for the fiscal year 2005/2006 is \$14,000,000.00. Estimated expenditure is \$12,500,000.00. In fiscal 2007 it is also expected that a tracer study on programme graduates will be conducted.

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

The Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) operates under the purview of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education and provides training in career enhancement services, inclusive of numeracy and literacy skills, vocational skills training and entrepreneurial development and support services.

The main objective of the programme is:

- To enhance the employability and self-employment prospects of the targeted youth population, by providing high quality, cost-effective programmes, as well as relevant skills and attitudinal training using well-trained and highly-motivated staff.

YTEPP provides skills training to persons who are out of school and unemployed, and targets the age group 15 – 25 years. During fiscal 2006, 1,478 (32.1%) males and 2,327 (50.5%) females benefited from YTEPP. This beneficiary total of 3,805 surpasses the target number of beneficiaries for fiscal 2005/2006 (3,500) by 8% (305 persons). An additional 804 participants (17.4%) were older persons, who were offered specialized training in computer courses. The main services offered to beneficiaries during this period were career enhancement services, and training in vocational skills and entrepreneurial development.

Additionally, the plans over the period 2007 to 2009 would include:

- (i) Offering the training facilities to an estimated 10,000 persons annually;
- (ii) Expanding the Level II offering to selected part-time centres;
- (iii) Completing construction of the Tobago Training Centre;
- (iv) Developing more meaningful partnerships with the business community for sponsorships and to act as absorption bases for our graduates;
- (v) Expanding the revenue bases to generate increases in income for 2006/2007 over 2005/2006;
- (vi) Exploring international partnerships so that a student exchange programme could become a reality;
- (vii) Promoting a wider awareness and recognition of YTEPP as a company and YTEPP as a training provider;
- (viii) Lobbying extensively for government's support in having all training at the pre-craft and craft levels channeled through YTEPP Limited; and
- (ix) Partnering with more Secondary Schools to have our programme adopted as their core programme during the day classes.

A formal evaluation of the programme has also been conducted through a Tutor Survey and a Client Satisfaction Tracer Study. The budgeted allocation for the YTEPP for the fiscal 2006 is \$49,000,000.00. Estimated expenditure is \$49,000,000.00.

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### ✓ **Civilian Conservation Corps**

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) programme, under the Ministry of National Security, is geared toward the provision of skills training to youth at risk across the country. Up to the third quarter of fiscal 2006, there have been 1,843 beneficiaries disaggregated as 1,092 male and 751 female. Among those directly benefiting, there have not only been young people, but also the socially displaced and the unemployed. Indirect beneficiaries have been victims of domestic violence, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV/AIDS, substance abusers, and athletes.

The programme has as its key objectives, the following:

- To change attitudes and behaviours whilst preparing young persons for employment;
- To offer expanded programmes of choice available to 'youth at risk';
- To reduce loss of productive people from the national skills base; and
- To intervene in a way that is rehabilitative.

The achievement of these objectives has been illustrated in Table XV:

**Table XV: Achievement of Objectives in the Civilian Conservation Corps Programme in 2006**

Objective	Indicator of success	Target for 3rd quarter 2006	Actual Achievements
1	Increased discipline, punctuality, and team work	90% of pop	90% of pop
2	Successful internment at OJT	100% of pop	90% of pop
3	Successful Graduation of Cycle	100% of pop	85% of pop
4	Successful integration of socially acceptable conflict resolution and anger management skills	85% of pop	85% of pop

Source: Ministry of National Security

The participants in the programme are exposed to the following training services:

- Life Skills Training and Social Development;
- On-The-Job Placement;
- Wellness Programme;
- Scholarships and Entrepreneurial Development;
- Mentorship;
- Remedial Literacy and Numeracy Training & Development;
- Computer Literacy;
- Leadership and Man Management Development and Training; and
- Follow-on Job Placement.

Graduates of the programme are more employable following the training. Out of the 1,843 participants successfully exposed to training, excluding the last cycle of fiscal 2005, 1364 are gainfully employed, and equipped with the moral and ethical values to function more easily in society. Many of

the successful participants are more certain of their future endeavours and the steps necessary to attain them.

The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 \$32,000,000.00 and estimated expenditure is \$25,000,000.00.

## **Family Focused Programmes**

Family focused programmes are herein defined as "programmes that directly target families and are fundamentally concerned with improving the functioning of this institution. In the budget speech of 2005, the Honourable Prime Minister identified the need for a "return to the basics of wholesome family life" as critical to achieving a 'change in attitude [as well as] a commitment and determination" to achieve the nation's social development goals. Prior to this public statement of government's continued commitment to 'strengthening families', which government views as 'the surest



## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

way of strengthening our communities', all Ministries were required to identify existing family-focused initiatives and develop programmes for the upcoming fiscal year that would treat with the gaps identified in this exercise of institutional introspection.

The Ministry of Social Development was identified as the government institution with primary responsibility for spearheading and coordinating state initiatives that pertain to the building of the institution of the family. An investigation into the Status of the Institution of the Family in Trinidad and Tobago by a Cabinet Appointed Committee established in 2003 was the first major initiative undertaken by the Ministry. The Committee prepared a report in 2004 which has since informed the activities of government. To date, the Ministry of Social Development has begun the process of formulating a National Policy on the Family, as well as a National Parenting Programme. These activities were based on the recommendations in the Committee's Report.

### Programme Achievements for Fiscal 2006

In fiscal 2006 a number of programmes and initiatives under this area of intervention were undertaken by the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, the Ministry of Social Development and the Tobago House of Assembly with the view to strengthening the institution of the family. These are outlined below:

#### • Adoption of Children

This programme meets the need of several categories of clients including: children in need of adoption, persons who are unable to take care of their children and are seeking assistance to offer their babies for adoption, persons who wish to extend their family via adoption, as well as persons who already have a child or children in their home and wish to legalize that arrangement. The objectives of this initiative are as follows:

- To provide children with homes where they can be loved, nurtured and encouraged.

- To provide assistance to mothers who would not like to give up their babies for adoption but need help with clothing, pampers, etc.

In fiscal 2006, several home study investigations were conducted which resulted in twelve (12) applicants being approved as successful adopters. There were also fourteen (14) court-related adoption matters officially concluded in Court.

#### • Remedial Therapy Programme

The Remedial Therapy Programme is a rehabilitation programme that provides counselling services for probationers and their families.

The objectives of this programme are to:

- Prevent recidivism.
- Rebuild relationships between young persons and their families.
- Prevent family breakdown.
- Link Youths with Community Resources.
- Develop verbal and other communication skills in participants.
- Encourage higher levels of social interaction by participants.

In the period October 2005 to June 2006, one hundred and forty (140) persons benefited from the programme.

#### • Domestic Violence Programme

This programme includes the Domestic Violence Hotline, Community Based Drop-in Information and Support Centres and Public Awareness initiatives. It was designed to address the complex and sensitive issue of domestic violence in the society. The objectives of this programme are:

- To reduce the instances of acts related to domestic violence;
- To ensure that no one in a situation of domestic violence suffers unduly from a lack of support; and
- To provide a facility for everyone to access help in cases of domestic crisis.

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The beneficiaries are victims and perpetrators of domestic violence, rape, sexual abuse and incest. The services offered during fiscal 2006 are the provision of a support base for beneficiaries, a facility for beneficiaries to access help in instances of domestic violence, information to promote healthy life styles and referral services. Achievements for 2006 include the conduct of workshops, the establishment of a "Women's Empowerment Group" and an "Adolescent Development Group" and home visits to clients of drop-in centres. A total of 1,597 individuals benefited from this intervention in 2006. The total budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$2,645,090.00 and the estimated expenditure to the end of the 3rd quarter is \$1,589,090.00.

### • Men's Support Programme

The Gender Development Division at the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs conducts programmes via the Women's Enhancement and Equality Institute designed to address social and other issues that affect the vulnerability of men and boys. The platform is intended to seek solutions that would bring about change in the thinking and behaviour of males in our society. The budget allocation for this programme in 2006 is \$1,639,600.00. The major objectives of this programme are:

- To improve men's health within the community;
- To reduce the level of male violence;
- To provide opportunities for the active participation of males in the socialization of boy children; and
- To ensure the improvement of males performance in the education system.

The direct beneficiaries are males in Parent/Teachers Associations, CBOs, NGOs, Religious Organisations and the Trinidad and Tobago Defense Force. For fiscal 2006 the estimated expenditure is \$100,036.00.

## Initiatives

### • Adoption Awareness Campaign

Previously known as the Community Interface Programme under the Ministry of Social Development, this initiative seeks to meet with members of the public in their own community

to discuss matters relating to adoption in Trinidad and Tobago. The objectives of this initiative are:

- To increase public awareness of the existence and activities of the Adoption Board;
- To enlighten social partners, NGOs and CBOs on the issue of adoption;
- To educate and provide clarification on matters relating to adoption;
- To address the myths surrounding the adoption process;
- To facilitate networking with community leaders via existing organizations; and
- To reduce the incidence of abandoned babies

In fiscal 2006, the illegal placement of children by individuals and organisations other than the Adoption Board into care still posed a challenge to the Unit. To address this, correspondence on the issue was sent to key stakeholders. To improve the overall effectiveness of this initiative, direct community outreach activities were conducted.

### • International Day of Families

This year, International Day of Families was celebrated on May 15th 2006. The project name for this year's celebration was, "Bringing Back Value to the Family" with the theme being 'I value Me, I Value You: We Value Each Other'. A two hour Radio programme was hosted on Radio Vision Power 102 and several newspaper articles were published on family oriented topics. The beneficiaries of this media-based initiative included individuals, families and agencies of all ages and categories.

The achievements for this fiscal year are as follows:

- (1) Ten articles were prepared by the staff of the National Family Services Division (NFSD) of the Ministry of Social Development, for a series entitled 'Promoting Healthy Family Functioning'. This series was published in the Trinidad Express, the Newsday and the HCU Probe.
- (2) A two hour Radio programme was hosted on Radio Vision Power 102 in May 2006.
- (3) Positive telephone and direct responses from callers and visitors, including clients and agencies, as to the

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usefulness of the series and requests for its continuation.

- (4) Several requests were received for sessions/lectures on the stated topic.
- (5) Information on the services of the NFSD and venues for delivery was disseminated.
- (6) Requests for the services of the NFSD continue to be received via telephone and writing from NGOs, Schools and community groups.

### Tobago

#### • Children and Family Services Programme

The Children and Family Services Programme is administered by the Health and Family Services Division. This programme has two (2) major components which are: Domestic Violence Programme and the Family Surveillance Programme. The total budgeted allocation for these programmes was estimated at \$375,000.00 and approximately 2,000 persons benefited from these services.

#### • Family First Foundation Nurturing Centre

The Family First Foundation Nurturing Centre is an element of the Special Social Programme that involves a partnership between the Department of Health and Social Services and the Family First Foundation for Children and Youth at Risk, a Non-Governmental Organization. The target group consists of displaced families as a result of sexual abuse within the home and other forms of domestic violence.

This initiative provides short term (6-9 months) living accommodation for the nurturing of family relationships and for facilitating the healing process, for persons who survived sexual abuse in the home. Other aspects of the Programme are:

- Care Line 631- CARE (2273);
- Crisis Intervention and Referral Services;
- Perpetrators' programme which utilizes the Duluth Model of treatment;
- Trauma Counselling and Anger Management; and

- Empowerment, Micro-Enterprise and Training and Development.

The estimated expenditure for 2006 is \$50,000.00 and thirty (30) persons benefited from this intervention.

#### • Foster Care Kinship and Adoption Programme

The Foster Care/Kinship Care is conducted in Tobago under the aegis of the Department of Health and Social Services. This programme targets persons who are unable to care for their children; persons who wish to extend their families via adoption; and persons who have children in their care and wish to legalise the arrangement.

The Programme is also intended to facilitate permanency planning for children whose parents are dying from terminal illness including HIV/AIDS, provide children who need foster care with homes where they could be loved, nurtured and encouraged and also to provide assistance for mothers who do not wish to give up their babies for adoption, but need financial assistance and kinship/network support.

In fiscal 2006, approximately \$500,000 was allocated to the programme and twenty-five (25) families benefited from this Programme.

#### • Battered Women's Shelter and Services

The Department of Social Services and Gender Affairs awards grants to TOWERS Shelter for Battered Women, Syl Phil Home in Love and Jesus Cares Family Cottage for Children and Youth, for:

- i. the provision of shelter services to victims of family violence and their dependents
- ii. related services, for children and youths such as alcohol and substance abuse prevention
- iii. family violence prevention counselling.

The activities of this programme reflect the Department's ongoing focus on the connections among child abuse, child welfare, and domestic violence.

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The TOWERS help provide critical services to women who are, or are at risk of becoming, victims of violence in their homes. The aim of the programme is to ensure that women who are victims of domestic violence have safe places to go and a hotline for victims has been established to help women protect themselves and their children. In fiscal 2006, the estimated expenditure on the Programme is \$80,000.00 with twenty-five (25) beneficiaries.

### Health and Wellness

In keeping with the Vision 2020 Draft National Strategic Plan, the area of health and wellness has been identified as key to the development of the citizenry. Health and Wellness can be defined as 'the maintenance of good health beyond the absence of disease or infirmity, including social, emotional and spiritual aspects of health'.

In the context of 'Nurturing a Caring Society', improvement of 'health care, wellness and lifestyles through the continuous modernization and development of the health sector' is imperative. Throughout fiscal 2006, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago has remained committed to creating a health sector that is caring, efficient, effective, accessible and affordable.

The Vision 2020 Subcommittee on Health identified fourteen (14) priority areas aimed at providing the nation with the optimum standard of health care and directed towards life-long wellness. These are outlined in Box XII.

#### Box XII: The Fourteen Priority Areas for The Health Sector

- Promoting primary health care and empowering people to take responsibility for their own health.
- Improvement in life expectancy, including a decrease in maternal and infant mortality.
- Environmental protection, including provision of a safe water supply, reduction in environmental pollution, etc
- Control of substance use and abuse viz. tobacco, alcohol and illicit drugs particularly in adolescents.
- Completion of the decentralization process.
- Utilization of technology for information, science, health care and medicine.
- Prevention, control and treatment of communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS, diarrhea and respiratory diseases.
- Control of non-communicable diseases and other life style related incidents.
- Financing health care
- Promoting private/public sector collaboration to obtain greater efficiencies.
- Development of all categories of human resources for health particularly geriatricians, counselors, nurses, etc.
- Developing a research agenda, as the platform for evidence-based decision-making, policy formulation, new learning and development.
- Promoting Mental Health
- Modifying behaviour and attitudes

### Programme Achievements For Fiscal 2006

In fiscal 2006 the Ministry of Health and the Tobago House of Assembly undertook the following programmes and initiatives, with a view towards providing and improving health services throughout the nation:

#### • Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV / AIDS Programme

The primary objective of the Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV / AIDS Programme is to reduce the number of babies born infected with HIV / AIDS. The programme operates on a voluntary testing and counselling basis, for expectant mothers infected with HIV / AIDS and also falls under the umbrella of the Maternal and Child Primary Health Care Services Programme.

Mothers enrolled in the programme benefit from the supply of anti-retroviral drugs prior to and during pregnancy and are

offered the option of continued therapy for their babies for a stipulated period of time. For the period January – December 2005, 10,397 women were tested in Trinidad, with 155 women identified as infected and consequently treated. In addition, 149 babies were born as potential cases with HIV / AIDS, of which 23 were tested - 18 were found to be negative cases and 5 babies tested as positive.

For the period January-March 2006, 3,579 women were tested, of which 37 were positive and are currently being treated. The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$1,500,000.00 with an estimated expenditure of \$680,737.00.

#### • Anti-Retroviral Treatment Programme

The Anti-Retroviral Treatment Programme aims to provide free anti-retroviral therapy for patients living with HIV / AIDS, at most public facilities throughout the country. The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$7 million with an estimated expenditure of \$6.6 million. Beneficiaries for the period October 2005 – March 2006 are as follows:

**Table XVI: Beneficiaries of the Anti-Retroviral Treatment Programme for the period October 2005-March 2006**

Area	Children	Adults	Total
Tobago	20	140	160
Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex	50	-	50
Cyril Ross Nursery	77	-	77
San Fernando General Hospital	20	413	433
Medical Resources Foundation		2,560	2,560
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>3,113</b>	<b>3,280</b>

Source: Ministry of Health

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### • Chronic Disease Assistance Plan (C-DAP)

In an attempt to reduce the burden on dispensing facilities at the public centres, as well as to extend the free prescription of drugs, the Chronic Disease Assistance Plan (C-DAP) was introduced by the Ministry Health to address this need. Through C-DAP, prescription drugs can be obtained at private pharmacies from medical practitioners in both the private and public sectors. The beneficiaries of this plan include persons that suffer from the chronic diseases of:

- Diabetes
- Asthma
- Hypertension
- Arthritis
- Glaucoma
- Depression
- Prostate Cancer
- Benign prostate hyperplasia
- Some Cardiac Related Diseases

C-DAP also recently expanded its programme to cover three (3) additional diseases; epilepsy, Parkinson's disease and acid reflux. 252,000 persons or 20% of the population benefited from the programme as of August 2006.

In fiscal 2007 the Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP) will be expanded to increase accessibility to health care services and reduce the cost of healthcare. The emphasis will be on the continued computerization of all participating private pharmacies to ensure the timely management and monitoring of the programme with reference to claims, distribution and inventory control. The budgeted allocation for this period was \$40,000,000.00 with an estimated expenditure of \$27,615,186.00.

### • Government subsidy for Adult Cardiac Surgery

The Government subsidy for Adult Cardiac Surgery targeted individuals that have been unable to afford the price of treatment for cardiac related problems at institutions such as the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex. The services that are offered to needy patients include angiograms, angioplasty

and open heart surgery. During October 1st 2005 to May 31st 2006, sixty (60) patients benefited from angiogram procedures, twenty (20) from angioplasty and sixty (60) from open-heart surgery. The estimated expenditure for the programme in fiscal 2006 is \$16.1 million and the budgeted allocation is \$19 million.

### • Surgical Waiting List Initiative

The Surgical Waiting List Initiative was developed to reduce the waiting list at public hospitals for surgeries and to bring early relief to those patients that have already been waiting for long periods. The waiting list for surgeries included hernia cases, fibroid embolizations, cataracts and joint replacement. It was expected for the first half of fiscal 2006, one thousand (1000) surgeries were to have been conducted throughout the country. By the end of May 31st 2006 a total of nine hundred and eighty-seven (987) surgical procedures and one hundred and thirteen (113) echocardiograms were performed with an estimated expenditure of \$15.5 million. The budgeted allocation for the fiscal year is \$16 million.

### • School Health Programme

The School Health Programme is a collaboration between the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health. In 2006, it focused on the re-introduction of screening services for early detection of hearing and visual impairment among actively enrolled students in government and assisted primary schools. For the academic school year 2005 / 2006, the objective of the programme was to screen 100% of 1st and 2nd year students with a target population of 40,000 students. Over the period under review, 41,632 students of Standards 1 & 2 of all primary schools throughout the country were screened for vision and hearing disabilities.

This service is being extended in 2006/2007 for students of Standards 3 & 4 and will later include screen tests for mental illness, diabetes, asthmatic conditions and psychosocial issues. At the primary level 4,540 students have already been exposed to Guidance sessions; 3,992 students were referred to Guidance Officers for individual counseling and 1,152 have been provided with direct services of intervention



for learning difficulties by Special Education Teachers. The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$3,000,000.00 with an estimated expenditure of \$799,557.00.

### Initiatives

#### • National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP)

The National Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention Programme (NADAPP) is the central coordinating agency with responsibility for drug demand reduction in Trinidad and Tobago. NADAPP guides and coordinates the efforts of State agencies as well as NGOs and private sector programmes geared towards reducing the use and abuse of alcohol and illicit drugs.

The core role and functions of NADAPP are:

- To develop a research capability for continuous assessment of the extent and peculiarities of the problem of alcohol and other drug abuse.
- To develop a cohesive and well-coordinated partnership among Government agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations, community groups, international agencies and foreign governments, in the offensive against alcohol and other drug abuse.
- To effect improvement in the health and well-being of the population by instituting appropriate alcohol and drug-related policies and legislation.
- To reduce demand by the nation's population for alcohol and other drugs through the development of a Public Education and Information Programme, a Community-based Prevention Activities Programme, a School Prevention Programme, a Treatment and Rehabilitation Programme and an Employee Assistance Programme.

The total budgeted allocation for the 2006 fiscal year for programmes under NADAPP is \$3,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is also \$ 3,000,000.00.

The following programmes are carried out through NADAPP:

#### • Community Prevention

This demand reduction initiative provides information dissemination through lectures, workshops, displays and demonstrations. Officers of the NADAPP visit the communities upon invitation to carry out this initiative. The objectives are to:

- Reduce the demand for drugs and promote healthy lifestyle alternatives through education.
- Create networking among communities.
- Conduct research to inform policies and programmes.
- Equip groups to organize and sustain drug demand reduction programmes.

During the fiscal year 2006, workshops were conducted in eleven communities.

#### • School Prevention

This initiative is responsible for disseminating information education on drug use and reduction in schools. NADAPP visits schools upon invitation and conducts workshops for students, teachers and other stakeholders.

The objectives are to:

- Educate students, parents, teachers, social workers, and guidance officers via workshops and lectures.
- Empower the said stakeholders to design and implement Drug Demand Reduction Programmes.

The initiative targets youths who are between 18 and 25 years of age. In fiscal 2006, officers of the NADAPP visited approximately 30 schools and conducted a number of lectures during the period.

#### • Christmas and Carnival Media Programme

The Christmas and Carnival Media Programme both involve information dissemination through the print and electronic media. There was the distribution of jerseys with an anti-drug message and information dissemination through song during the Carnival season. The objectives of these programmes are to:

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- Reinforce non-drug using behaviours and attitudes.
- Increase awareness in the general public on the dangers of drug use/abuse.
- Promote healthy lifestyle alternatives.
- Public awareness.
- Information dissemination.
- Behaviour change.

The programmes target youth, men/boys, women/girls and children.

### • International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

This initiative includes public awareness, literature distribution on the subject and outreach/display. Overall objectives of the initiative are:

- To inform the public on the dangers of drug use
- Publicize the penalties by law for illicit trafficking
- To educate persons on the topic of drug use and illicit trafficking
- Behaviour change

The programme targets all persons. Indicators of success for fiscal 2006 include: the anti-drug message sent to more than 80,000 persons via print and electronic media and increased requests for information from community organizations.

### • Research and Policy

Research is conducted by NADAPP to provide statistics on drug use within specific populations. The objectives of this initiative are:

- To provide information to stakeholders to guide their Drug Demand Reduction Initiatives and policies.
- To collect data on drug use within various populations.

In fiscal 2006, a rapid assessment survey of Residents in Children's Homes with respect to their knowledge/attitude and the use of drugs was completed. The Division also develops policy with respect to drug demand reduction. In this context, a School Drug Policy booklet was launched by the Ministry of Education in fiscal 2006.

## Tobago

### • Tobago Health Promotion Clinic Programme

This programme is offered by the Division of Health and Social Services and seeks to offer prevention, awareness, social marketing for substance abuse and HIV/AIDS, and treatment including free anti-retroviral therapy for HIV/AIDS and other chronic diseases, emerging as a consequence of AIDS.

The main objectives of the programme include:

- To create a supportive and user friendly environment to bring about behavioural change;
- To reduce the risk of HIV infection among citizens; and
- To prevent persons with HIV from progressing to AIDS.

The programme is coordinated by the HIV/ AIDS and Substance Abuse Commission and targets persons living with HIV/: adults, youth and children.

In fiscal 2006, both the AIDS awareness Programme and the Production and Research Institute for Persons with Disabilities and Empowerment (Project PRYDE) have both impacted the districts in their communities. Project PRYDE has brought awareness to their coverage area by reaching sixty (60%) of the targeted population. The estimated expenditure for fiscal 2006 is \$13,000,000.00.

### • Tobago Drug Council and Alcohol Drug Abuse & HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme

The Alcohol, Drug Abuse and HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme (ADAPP) is the Secretariat of the Tobago Drug Council, which is affiliated to the National Drug Council, established in 2000 through Cabinet. The National Drug Council is mandated to coordinate and monitor the National Anti-Drug Strategy. This programme is under the aegis of the Department of Health and Social Services. It is a demand reduction programme, focusing on community and school prevention, preventive education, treatment, rehabilitation and research, and targets substance abusers.

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The objectives of the Programme are to:

- Strengthen the Secretariat of ADAPP and enhance the capabilities of members of staff;
- Establish an effective demand reduction programme in 6 districts in Tobago;
- Expand the programme for the primary and secondary schools aimed at reducing the demand for drugs; and
- Collaborate with the Tobago Health Promotion Clinic and enhance the quality of the treatment and rehabilitation services through the conduct of an evaluation of the programme.

The estimated expenditure for the fiscal year 2006 is \$626,400.00 and (500) five hundred school children from 10 villages benefited from this programme through public awareness programmes and counselling.

### Poverty Alleviation

Poverty alleviation has long been a goal of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The developed country vision entails "an integrated and inclusive society, free of poverty, with mechanisms to prevent and treat expeditiously with vulnerabilities of any type, and providing the wherewithal for all of its citizens to self-actualize". Poverty is much more than difficulty in satisfying one's basic needs or financial constraints. It includes vulnerability to poor health and education, deprivation in knowledge and communication, inability to exercise human and political rights and the absence of dignity, confidence and self-respect. There is also environmental impoverishment and the impoverishment of entire communities. Behind these faces lies the grim reality of desperate lives without choices and opportunities<sup>52</sup>. Therefore the approach to the reduction of poverty is 'helping people to create possibilities'. This speaks to self-actualization and the empowerment of all persons, to ensure individual, household, and community sustainability. The mission for poverty alleviation as outlined by the Vision 2020 Subcommittee on Poverty Alleviation and Social Services is:

The reduction of poverty to 5 percent or less by 2010, and the development of social service delivery programmes to manage social and economic vulnerability such that there is the total elimination of the incidence of chronic poverty or indigence (food poverty), by that date.

Programmes geared towards poverty alleviation seek not only to address all the inequalities and create opportunities for the poor but to promote a sustainable lifestyle.

### Programme Achievements for Fiscal 2006

The following programmes and initiatives were pursued by the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Housing, the Ministry of Education and the Tobago House of Assembly during fiscal 2005/2006, with a view towards poverty alleviation throughout the nation:

#### • Multipurpose Community Based Telecentre (MCT) Project

This project, carried out by the Ministry of Social Development, is an Information Technology driven initiative with a poverty reduction focus. It facilitates the free access to information and communication technologies by members of disadvantaged communities in Trinidad and Tobago. It targets the needy and underprivileged, particularly in rural regions. The goal of the project is to contribute to the reduction of poverty through the provision of access to Information and Communication Technologies.

The objectives of the MCT project are:

- The core users of the facility would eventually buy into the project and claim ownership thereby creating a symbiotic connection that would foster programme sustainability.
- The installation of the necessary tools and provision of specific I.T. related services in the communities would assist users in accessing information on government services via the Social Sector Portal.

<sup>52</sup> Human Development Report 1997, UNDP

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- The MCT Project would create a platform for collaboration among Ministries, NGOs and CBOs. Relationships would therefore be widened and deepened and would consequently lead to a reduction in redundancies in social services, due to increased knowledge sharing and joint efforts.

For the period April 1st 2005 to March 31st 2006 there were one thousand, six hundred and ninety-eight (1,698) users for all Telecentres, of which sixty-four percent (64%) were females and thirty-six percent (36%) were males. Approximately one half (50%) of all telecentre users were 18 years and under, one-third (33%) being between the ages of 19-35 and fifteen percent (15%) account for persons over the age of thirty-five years. Students account for fifty-five percent (55%) of the users for this period. The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$1,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$1,083,228.00.

### • Old Age Pension Programme

This programme provides financial assistance to senior citizens of Trinidad and Tobago from the low income socio-economic bracket. The quantum of the grant is either \$1,050.00 or \$1,150.00 per month, depending on the income of the claimant. The objective of this programme:

- To assist senior citizens who fall within the qualifying criteria to manage the socio-economic impact associated with old age.

This programme targets senior citizens 65 years and over whose income does not exceed \$1000 per month and who must be resident in Trinidad and Tobago for at least 20 years, prior to their application. As at June 2006, there were 65,976 recipients of the Old Age Pension grant of which thirty percent (30%) receive the lower level of grant of \$1050.00 per month and the remaining seventy (70%) receive maximum grant of \$1150.00. The budgeted allocation for the 2006 fiscal year was \$1,032,750,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is the same.

### • Disability Assistance Grant

The Disability Assistance Grant, under the purview of the Ministry of Social Development, provides financial assistance in the sum of \$800.00 monthly, to citizens who have been medically certified as being disabled or are unable to earn a livelihood. This programme targets persons between 18-64 years of age that are disabled and are earning \$3,600.00 per annum or less. As at June 2006, 14,667 persons benefited from the Grant. For the period under review, Government allocated \$152,000,000.00 towards the Grant and the estimated expenditure is the same.

### • Public Assistance Grant

The Public Assistance Grant comprises the provision of financial grants to citizens of Trinidad and Tobago who are unable to earn a living because of illness or injury. The grants are also paid on behalf of children in cases where their fathers have died, been hospitalized, imprisoned or deserted. The grants are subjected to review with a view to establishing further need. The quantum of the grants is as follows: One person - \$470.00; Two persons - \$710.00; Three persons - \$920.00. Objectives of the grant are to provide financial assistance to needy persons, families and necessitous children.

At the end of June 2006, 21,316 households benefited from the program. The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$271,200,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$195,240,000.00.

### • European Union sponsored Poverty Reduction Programme

The Poverty Reduction Programme is an initiative aimed at supporting the Government of Trinidad and Tobago in formulating and implementing a National Poverty Reduction Strategy. The outline of the components of this programme was presented earlier in the document under the chapter on the National Social Situation.

**The main achievements of the programme for fiscal 2006 include:**

- Approval of 115 projects, totalling \$2,527,000.00
- Actual disbursements to 162 micro-projects;

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- Conduct of a training programme for members of the Monitoring Committee of the fifteen (15) RSHDCs in Project Monitoring and Evaluation was completed; and

The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$7,000,000.00.

### • Social Help and Rehabilitative Efforts (S.H.A.R.E.) and Conditional Cash Transfer Programme

The SHARE programme is designed as an emergency measure towards alleviating the unfortunate situation of the new poor. Its approach is holistic and encompasses two methods: (1) Satisfying the biological and physical need of food; (2) Making the individual/household self-sufficient through empowerment strategies and other developmental and collaborative efforts. Both strategies are delivered in collaboration with NGOs, CBOs and FBOs.

#### The objectives of this programme are:

- To empower the disadvantaged and socially vulnerable.
- To assist in the alleviation/reduction of poverty/hunger by increasing the number of empowered recipients by 30% over a five year period.
- To develop a comprehensive database to measure programme performance and poverty assessment.
- To create a network of partnerships between S.H.A.R.E., governmental and non-governmental agencies to facilitate the provision of training and resources.

This programme targets persons/households living in poverty, persons 18-65 years of age who are in possession of a valid Trinidad and Tobago ID card, and representing households in receipt of total household income of \$1,000.00 and less. The programme achievements of this fiscal year include the distribution of 96,000 food hampers valued at \$200.00 each from January to June. The budgeted allocation for the fiscal period 2005/2006 is \$50,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$46,00,00.00. SHARE was replaced by the Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (CCTP) on August 1st, 2006.

The targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme through the TTPCard Programme is intended to provide social protection by promoting nutritional and food security to vulnerable households. It is intended to enhance the security and dignity of these households; and reduce incidents of poverty. The CCTP under the Ministry of Social Development was launched on August 1st, 2006.

#### The objectives of the Conditional Cash Transfer Programme are:

- To provide targeted conditional cash transfers to approximately 60,000 eligible recipients by August 1st, 2006.
- To ensure all employable beneficiaries are registered with an employment agency, to actively seek employment.
- To engage a minimum of 80% of recipients in life skills training programmes such as family and budgetary planning.
- To engage a minimum of 50% of recipients in employment training programmes within the first two (2) years of the programmes.

#### The following criterion outlined by the Inter-Ministerial Committee's Terms of Reference to be used for selection of participants:

- i. Families living below the Poverty Line,
- ii. The cumulative disposal income for food being less than \$300 per person per month – subject to a Means Test.

#### The recipients must be tied to an incentive regime, which will consider:

- i. Persons who are actively seeking employment,
- ii. Persons who are actively engaged in training programmes leading to employment, or
- iii. Persons whose children are pursuing education, and training opportunities.



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- iv. Persons should utilize the programme for no more than two (2) years and be exposed to budgetary planning, family planning and career guidance and planning.

The CCT is distributed as follows:

### Category 1

Families of three (3) members and under - \$300.00

### Category 2

Families between four (4) and five (5) members - \$400.00

### Category 3

Families with six (6) members and above - \$500.00

- Initial recipients of the undertaking were current recipients of the SHARE Programme, to be followed by other vulnerable groups, on a case-by-case basis, for example, Old Age Pensioners.
- Where applicable, recipients must participate in relevant training programmes inclusive of self-development programmes, which must be monitored and evaluated to assess both programme effectiveness and recipients' participation.

The achievements of the CCTP include the successful launch of the programme with the distribution of cards to 18,000 individuals over a five day period throughout Trinidad and Tobago, a continued media campaign to inform all stakeholders, and the establishment of a hotline for cardholders (800-FOOD). Approximately 150 supermarkets signed contracts with the Ministry to be part of CCTP. At these supermarkets cardholders can purchase groceries from an approved list of groceries from the CCTP. The budgeted allocation for the period 2005/2006 is \$250,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$24,000,000.00 consequent to the delay in the implementation of the programme.

The plans for CCTP in fiscal 2007 include the conduct of a means test of all recipients of the programme, the implementation of the second phase of distribution of TT Cards to other vulnerable groups, and the implementation of

the training component of the programme.

### • Accelerated Housing Programme

Government has also placed focus on the provision of affordable and adequate housing to alleviate the living conditions of low and middle income households. Implementation of the Accelerated Housing Programme was continued under the Ministry of Housing through the Housing Development Corporation (HDC) via the Infill Lots, the Joint Venture and the Urban Renewal Programmes.

The goal of the Accelerated Housing Programme is the production of approximately 100,000 housing units over a ten (10) year period to meet the housing demand. It is estimated that approximately 8,200 housing solutions were constructed during 2005/2006 and would continue for the next three fiscal years.

### • Home Improvement Subsidy

The Home Improvement Subsidy is a matching subsidy which is provided to beneficiaries with household income less than \$54,000 per annum. The maximum value of the subsidy is \$20,000 subject to the provision of the match in a combination of funds, materials and sweat equity (labour).

In Trinidad, disbursement of subsidies commenced in March 2005 and as at June 2006 433 persons have benefited from this programme. In Tobago, a total of 234 persons have received home improvement subsidies from 2004 to June 2006. In June 2006, 1000 applicants were randomly selected and are being processed to determine eligibility.

It is expected that by June 2007, a total of 1100 persons are expected to benefit under the terms of the IDB Loan Agreement (2nd National Settlements Programme).

### • Home Improvement Grant

The implementation of the Home Improvement Grant was launched in both Trinidad and Tobago and is geared towards improving the living conditions and quality of life of individuals whose houses are in dire need of repairs and require some measure of assistance. This programme assist home owners



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with a maximum household income of \$36,000 per annum to obtain a Grant of \$15,000 to effect home repairs.

For the period October 2005 – June 2006, 302 persons have received first tranche payments and 488 persons have received 2nd tranche payments in Trinidad.

Five Hundred (500) applicants were randomly selected in June and July 2006 and are being processed to determine eligibility. The programme also runs in Tobago through the Tobago House of Assembly whereby 574 persons were awarded grants during the period 2004 – June 2006.

### • Textbook Rental/Loan Programme (Primary and Secondary Schools)

Ensuring that the nation's children are able to access the material necessary for successful completion of primary- and secondary-level education is a prudent approach to preventing the continuance of the cycle of poverty and other social problems. The Ministry of Education's Textbook Rental/Loan Programme therefore contributes significantly to assisting the nation's children in obtaining the textbooks needed for vital subject areas in both primary and secondary schools across the country. The target groups are primary and secondary school students.

This programme was established in the academic year 2003/2004 based on the introduction of the National Curriculum into all schools and provides students with some basic learning materials required for their development. The programme utilizes textbooks for primary and secondary schools, which have been evaluated by a Textbook Committee and approved by the Ministry of Education.

Under the programme in secondary schools, textbooks in the subject areas Mathematics, Language Arts, Spanish and Science are loaned to students in Forms One, Two and Three in all private and public secondary schools. The textbooks are supplied under a loan programme without the charge of any rental fees. The books are then returned at the end of the academic year for loan to the next intake of students.

The key objectives of the programme are:

- To ensure that all students, particularly the disadvantaged, have affordable and equitable access to learning materials; and
- To ensure that students are able to fully take advantage of educational opportunities with minimal stress.

A total of \$64,500,000.00 is allocated to the programme for fiscal 2006 with the estimated expenditure as the same. The beneficiaries are identifiable as the total student populations of primary and secondary schools across the nation. Since the inception of the program, secondary school students have been furnished with eight (8) textbooks in the areas of English Language, Mathematics, Spanish, Science, Social Studies, Physical Education, Visual Arts and Music.

Additionally, students have received an English dictionary, a Spanish/English dictionary and an Atlas (as necessary). Primary school students are being equipped with five (5) text books in the areas of Reading, Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and also remedial resources to aid in the development of literacy and numeracy skills and competencies.

During fiscal 2006, the programme achieved a 90% completion rate in procuring books for students at both types of educational establishments. Additionally, a completion rate of 20% was achieved in the procurement of material for special education needs of students across the education system, including Early Childhood Care and Education Centres and Technical Vocational Schools.

### • School Nutrition Programme

The Ministry of Education's School Nutrition Programme continues to be one of the Government's major preventative programmes aimed at poverty alleviation through the provision of breakfasts, lunches and milk drinks to deserving children in schools throughout Trinidad and Tobago. It was preceded by the School Feeding Programme, which emerged in 1986 out of the former School Nutrition Company. During

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fiscal 2006, the pre-school population was integrated into the programme and secondary schools were also included through the support of an IDB Loan. In 2002 the National Schools Dietary Services Limited was incorporated and this company was given oversight of the School Nutrition Programme. The programme targets children aged 3 – 18 years, who are identified by principals as being in underprivileged socio-economic circumstances.

The School Nutrition Programme currently operates with an organizational structure that comprises a Director, four (4) Nutrition Officers, twenty-seven (27) Food Services Officers and ten (10) Supporting Administrative Staff. The programme utilizes seventy-seven (77) caterers, who provide 90,000 lunches and 25,000 breakfasts five (5) times weekly, to needy children.

The objectives of the School Nutrition Programme are:

- To supply recipients with a breakfast which meets 1/4 of the daily requirements, and a lunch which meets 1/3 of the nutritional requirements necessary to achieve full potential for physical and cognitive development;
- To contribute to the improvement of the nutritional status of the needy child and to enhance learning ability; and
- To further stimulate the agricultural sector by utilizing local produce where ever possible in the meal plan.

Currently the programme provides 95,717 lunches and 39,047 breakfasts on a daily basis. For fiscal 2007 the targets are 45,000 breakfasts for students at all levels, 8,000 lunches daily for ECCE students and 100,000 lunches daily for primary and secondary school students. Preparatory work has begun towards the conduct of a needs assessment survey to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the programme.

Activities for 2006 involved extensive testing and random sampling at caterers and suppliers on a continuous basis. The School Nutrition Programme incorporates established test facilities to oversee the quality of meals, develop standardized

recipes and empower field officers. The processes of testing and random sampling are ongoing so as to establish standard protocols and mechanisms for continued random sampling of caterers and suppliers.

The budgeted allocation for the School Nutrition Programme in fiscal 2006 is \$200,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is the same.

### • School Transportation Programme

The Ministry of Education's School Transportation Programme entails the provision of dedicated school transportation services. More than 250 maxi taxi and PTSC buses provide transport for children attending secondary and primary schools which are located in remote areas in Trinidad and Tobago.

For the period September 2005 to June 2006, a total of 43,368 students from primary and secondary schools benefited from the School Transportation Programme. The estimated expenditure on this programme for the period under review is \$32,938,531.00.

## Tobago

### • Tobago School Nutrition Programme

The Division of Education, Youth Affairs and Sport is responsible for the implementation of this programme which provides nutritious meals for children from low income homes.

The main objectives of this programme are similar to that of the Trinidad Programme. The programme aims to:

- Provide one third of the day's nutritional requirements for each child
- Contribute to the improvement of the status of the needy child, thereby enhancing their ability to learn; and
- Stimulate agriculture sector by utilizing local produce in the meal plans

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The budgeted allocation for this programme in fiscal 2006 is \$26,902,800.00. The estimated expenditure is \$32,283,360.00 with 1.8 million meals supplied to primary and secondary schools.

### • Grants to Necessitous Persons Fund

This programme is administered by the Department of Health and Social Services and is designed as a rehabilitative and poverty alleviation measure to address the unfortunate situation of the chronic and absolute poor. The programme aims to achieve the following through the formulation of integrated strategies:

- Improve access to productive resources and infrastructure;
- Meet the basic human needs of all; and
- Enhance social protection and reduce vulnerability.

The programme is local in scope and the target group consists of all persons of all ages who are vulnerable, disadvantaged and living in poverty. In fiscal 2006, the Tobago House of Assembly assisted 300 households with home improvement grants and a further 175 households with home improvement subsidies, at a total estimated overall cost of \$3.0 million.

### Social Inclusion

Programmes outlined under this thematic grouping include those that focus primarily on ensuring the participation of vulnerable people and at-risk groups in society to ensure their active involvement in decisions and activities that affect them, as well as their access to the resources needed to meet their special needs, via approaches that foster behaviour change and empowerment. Policies and programmes that are geared towards social integration foster stable, safe and just societies and protect disadvantaged, vulnerable groups and people with special needs.

The Heads of State and Government at the World Summit for Social Development stated that the goal of social integration should be a society for all in which people have the right and the ability to participate in decisions affecting their lives. Formal democratic systems and participatory institutions and

mechanisms are the ways through which social integration is achieved.

Social inclusion is defined by the key concept of participation. Participation can be understood as a means, a goal and a process. Means - to empower communities to identify their priorities and to ensure their control over the actions and resources needed to achieve their goals. Goal: It is pursued as a goal to instill confidence and self-esteem in individuals and communities when they have the assurance that their voice will count in decisions that affect them. Process: As a process, participation offers a new approach to the governance of societies.

The major thrust behind the attempts at social integration of vulnerable people and at-risk groups is empowerment. This is consistent with the mission of the key Ministry responsible for programming related to vulnerable groups. The Ministry of Social Development through the provision of critical services and effective programming seeks to help, empower and transform the lives of the vulnerable.

The Goals of Vision 2020 are to ensure an integrated and inclusive society, free of poverty, with mechanisms to prevent and treat expeditiously with vulnerabilities of any type, and providing the resources for all of its citizens to self-actualize.

The development of social services and programmes to manage social and economic vulnerability are among the primary concerns of a number of the other social sector Ministries. This speaks to self-actualization and the empowerment of all persons, to ensure individual, household and community participation. Special attention is given to those individuals vulnerable to poverty and households in poverty. It also considers persons with disabilities, the socially displaced, older persons, children in need of special protection, ex-prisoners and deportees.

Government has further acknowledged that the quality of a nation's social capital determines the quality and pace of its development. Moreover, as Trinidad and Tobago moves apace toward developed country status, no individual or

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group of persons must be left behind. As a result, significant investments have been directed towards human resource development and the empowerment of disadvantaged and vulnerable communities, groups, families and individuals. Government through a number of special programmes for the vulnerable continues to embrace the principles of equity, equality, participation, social justice, individual responsibility, empowerment and dignity as key ingredients in its social development thrust.

### Programme Achievements for Fiscal 2006

The following programmes and initiatives were pursued by the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs and the Tobago House of Assembly in fiscal 2005/2006, with a view towards the overall goals of social inclusion throughout the nation:

#### • Community Service Orders

This programme facilitates the performance of unpaid community service for a specified number of hours by offenders to be completed in one (1) year. Upon completion of Community Service, a Completion Certificate is obtained from the Court which made the Order. The target beneficiaries for this programme are first time offenders and persons with minor offences. The goals of this programme are:

- Crime prevention/reduction
- Rehabilitation of offenders
- Restoration of family life and values
- Stable community life

The objectives of this programme are:

- To prevent recidivism
- To bring Offender to a sense of reality
- To help Offender to overcome insecurities
- To promote family life values
- To assist Offender to develop character
- To build self-worth in Offender
- To promote social interaction between Offender and community

During fiscal 2006 a monthly average of one hundred and fifty-five (155) persons participated in the programme.

#### • Rehabilitation and Accommodation of Deportees

This programme facilitates the payment of accommodation fees to institutions and provides support/social work intervention to deportees (e.g. establishing links with family members and providing a support system).

The objectives of the programme are:

- To provide housing subsidies to institutions that accommodates socially displaced deportees.
- To provide social work intervention to socially displaced persons referred to institutions (e.g. counselling, facilitating deportees' communication with relatives, transportation, acquisition of birth certificates, identification cards etc.
- To facilitate the access to training and employment for socially displaced.
- Relocation of the Socially Displaced Elderly to Homes for Older Persons

This programme initiative provides accommodation for socially displaced older persons. The services offered during this period are:

- Counselling;
- Selection and placement in Homes for Elderly Persons; and
- Subsidized payment for accommodation at Homes for Elderly Persons.

The objectives of this programme are:

- To provide quality care relevant to the specific needs of the elderly population;
- To increase accommodation for other categories of socially displaced persons at Assessment Centres; and
- To decrease the bottleneck at Assessment Centres.

In fiscal 2006, the main beneficiaries for the period October 2005 to March 2006 were nine (9) males and three (3)

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females. The budgeted allocation for 2006 is \$100,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$32,900.00.

### • Piparo Empowerment Centre

The Piparo Empowerment Centre under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Development provides residential treatment and rehabilitation services for male drug addicts using the Therapeutic Community Model. The programme has a capacity for fifty residents with an initial time frame of nine months to one year. Currently, the Centre is staffed with fourteen persons and functions in close collaboration with the Social Displacement Unit of the same Ministry and the NADAPP.

The objectives of the programme are:

- To provide clients with treatment and rehabilitation services towards their successful social reintegration
- To provide clients with opportunities for building and rebuilding skills to improve their chances at successful reintegration
- To provide for the continued moral and spiritual support of clients and their families both while resident and following discharge from our Centre
- To provide a comprehensive array of rehabilitative services including vocational and remedial skills training
- To provide long term residential substance abuse rehabilitation services for males who have a chronic problem and may have previously had several failed attempts
- To provide a safe physical environment during clients' recovery period.

The programme targets physically healthy male citizens 18 years and over who are socially displaced and/or chronic substance abusers. The budgeted allocation for 2006 is \$1,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is the same.

In fiscal 2006, several achievements were attained by the Centre including the maintenance of a monthly average resident population of 48. Ten individuals successfully completed and left the programme. From November 2005

to March 2006, a total of eighteen (18) residents were accepted into the MuST programme, which was indeed a major milestone in the evolution of the Centre. It has potentially enhanced the technical/vocational capacity of the Centre and provides a valid avenue for employment and self sustainability for residents.

Residents and staff participated along with other divisions of the Ministry of Social Development at several community outreach events. They also participated in activities organized by other rehabilitation/treatment programmes, community groups and NGOs including community marches against substance abuse in Piparo and in Couva (HEAL House). The centre for the first time hosted two final year social work students for their practicum from October 2005 to April 2006. Both students subsequently graduated with First-Class Honours.

Through the efforts of several staff members, the Association of Family and Friends of Piparo Empowerment Centre (AFFPEC) was established. Centre has also established a good relationship with some magistrates and court referrals to the Centre have increased significantly during the period under review. Counselors have been attending court and have been providing information to the court as needed through written reports in drug rehabilitation. As of June 2006, all current Clinical staff members have completed training at CARIAD.

### • Provision of Medical Services and Purchase of Medical supplies for use at Assessment Centres

The programme provides medical services and facilities the purchase of medical supplies for Assessment Centres for the socially displaced. This programme targets older socially displaced persons who may be unemployed, persons living with HIV/AIDS, ex-prisoners/deportees and/or substance abusers. The services provided during this period:

- Screening of all new admissions to Centre for Socially Displaced Persons.
- Referrals to medical and psychiatric facilities for treatment as necessary.



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- Monitoring and supervising the resident population for compliance with prescribed medications.

The objectives of this programme are:

- To ensure the medical and psychiatric health of residents at CSDP
- To ensure the detection and prevention of communicable diseases.

In fiscal 2006, the main beneficiaries for the period October 2005 to March 2006 were 228 persons. The budgeted allocation for 2006 is \$ 50,000.00 and the total expenditure is \$12,040.00.

### • Personal Assistants Training Programme

This programme commenced in the latter half of 2005 and is composed of classroom and practical training as well as on the job training delivered to students over a period of 15 months in total. The programme is undertaken by SERVOL on behalf of the Ministry of Social Development. The Personal Assistants Training Programme aim to provide a group or pool of trained attendants who would offer support services to persons with disabilities, so that such persons with disabilities can enjoy a greater degree of autonomy and independent living. The main objective of the programme is to train individuals to provide attendant care for persons with disabilities. The first batch of trainees included eleven (11) females. These candidates have all completed the Home Health Aide Programme. The first batch of trainees completed their 3-month classroom training in March 2006 as planned. They have since begun the on-the-job training arm of the programme at various NGOs around the country. The budgeted allocation for the 2006 fiscal year for this programme is \$409,975.00. The estimated expenditure is the same.

### • Adolescent Mothers Programme

The Adolescent Mothers Programme is an important social sector initiative which targets pregnant adolescents, teenage mothers and their children. The aim of the programme is to decrease the number of repeat pregnancies among young

women and by extension, the cycle of inter-generational poverty associated with this phenomenon. The programme addresses the holistic needs of the adolescent mother. These include health risks to the pregnant teenager, socioeconomic consequences of unplanned pregnancy and teenage motherhood. The objectives of the programme are as follows:

- To provide health counselling, remedial / continuing education, day care services and skills training for pre - and postnatal adolescents;
- To disseminate information on family planning, child rearing, nutrition, domestic violence and abuse
- To provide early stimulation and care to young children of teenage mothers
- To develop parenting, attitudinal and practical skills of teenagers through community outreach education in primary and secondary schools.

The target beneficiaries of this programme are pregnant teenagers, adolescent mothers, infants of adolescent mothers and members of the household in which the adolescent mother resides.

Ten (10) pregnant teens, thirteen (13) teenaged mothers and thirteen (13) infants benefited from centre based services offered by the programme at the centres located in Trinidad during the 2006 fiscal year. The budgeted allocation for the Adolescent Mothers Programme for the 2006 fiscal year is \$1,100,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$834,362.00.

### • Establishment of Senior Centres

This initiative aims to provide the necessary physical, social and mental stimulation and support mechanisms to enable older persons to remain healthy and active via the establishment of 'Senior Centres'. The Centres serve as focal points where older persons can come together in a home like setting to interact with their peers for services and activities that enhance their self-worth and dignity, support their independence and encourage their involvement in and with the community. The Centres also serve to encourage and promote education and public awareness on issues related to older persons and targets persons 60 years and older.



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The objectives of this project are:

- To allow older persons to continue to lead healthy, active and fulfilling lives within their communities.
- To avoid depression and loneliness associated with ageing by reducing the sense of social isolation experienced by older persons.
- To allow older persons the opportunity to be integrated in the community to which they belong by improving communication amongst older persons.
- To enhance the feeling of self-worth of older persons and to foster inter-generational relationships.

In fiscal 2006, two Senior Centres were opened which serve approximately 150 older persons: 75 persons at the St. James Senior Centre and 75 at the Maloney Senior Centre. Proposals were received and assessments completed for the establishment of an additional three (3) centres in South, East and Central Trinidad. These new centres should be in full operation by in the first half of fiscal 2007. The Budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$500,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$279,862.00.

### • Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP)

GAPP under the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Development was designed to sensitize young adults to the aging process and to prepare them, through training and field visitation, to develop practical skills in geriatric care. The programme offers a stipend of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per day for five days per week to all participants. The objectives are:

- To prepare youth to provide companionship for the elderly;
- To train youth in care-giving services; and
- To bridge the generation gap.

The direct beneficiaries are young persons between 17-25 years and the indirect beneficiaries are older persons. During fiscal 2006, there were 100 young males beneficiaries and 700 female beneficiaries with 60 older persons having benefited from the services provided. Client Satisfaction Surveys and a

Report on Physical Aspects of Delivery Points were conducted during the period under review. The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 was \$9,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$5,477,400.00. The targeted number of beneficiaries for fiscal 2007 is 2,000 persons.

### • Retirees/Adolescent Partnership Programme (RAPP)

The RAPP Programme provides a platform for learning and mentoring. It is geared towards helping young adults appreciate their classroom experiences by providing enabling environments for positive social interaction. RAPP utilizes the expertise of skilled retired persons to provide support services at the community level to students. The Programme incorporates two modules - Learning Enrichment and Mentoring.

The objectives of RAPP are:

- To provide assistance and supervision at the community level to young "at risk" persons between the ages of 11-16 years in order to minimize the extent of delinquency and drop-out in our school population;
- To provide a common platform geared toward improving learning skills, developing and enhancing social skills, building self-esteem and finding mutual ground for purposeful and productive living;
- To give retired experts an opportunity to work in partnership with young adults who would benefit from their expertise;
- To bridge the generation gap by positive interaction and the sharing of common experiences; and
- To provide a much needed wall of supplemental and remedial social support; to ensure that by working together the two groups will impact positively on the quality of life of each other and by extension, their communities.

For fiscal year 2006, 1200 children benefited from RAPP. The constraint of coping with behavioural problems children was addressed by using a counsellor to treat with these children. A Rapid Assessment was conducted between November to December 2005.

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The total budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$2,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$649,173.00.

### Initiatives

#### • Child Rights Activities

This initiative attempts to sensitize the population on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). This project will inform and educate the national community on the CRC. Information and education will be placed in the context of the responsibility of each person to further the best interests of children, thereby insuring the future.

The objectives of this project are:

- To disseminate information on the CRC.
- To encourage professionals in the field of childcare and protection in dialogue.
- To diminish resistance to the CRC.
- To reaffirm the importance of the family as the basic unit in the society and the child an integral part of that unit.
- To build an effective network of social sector agencies toward early implementation of the children's legislation recently enacted.
- To provide an opportunity for both adults and children to share their views.

A series of activities was planned to be conducted throughout the year, towards continuous support for and sensitization of the various stakeholders re Child rights. The programme included:

- 1) Dissemination of child rights material.
- 2) Production of a Child Rights calendar.
- 3) Poster Competition.
- 4) Radio quiz.
- 5) Interactive Panel discussion.
- 6) Interactive Panel discussion on TV.
- 7) Conduct of a Play project.
- 8) Continuation of the Scholarship programme for children in Institutions (PSIP funds).

Beneficiaries served for this fiscal year are: the national community, with priority focus on empowering children as to their rights and responsibilities.

Achievements for this fiscal year are:

- Printing and distribution of 20,000 Identification cards for Carnival 2006 – to promote the safety of children.
- Reprinting (8000) copies of the UNCRC, for use in outreach and other educational activities.
- Scholarship programme – grant of scholarships to children in Children's Homes.

The estimated expenditure for the 2006 fiscal year is \$49,481.00.

#### • International Day of Disabled Persons 2005

This initiative includes various activities that are implemented each year to mark International Day of Disabled Persons. In fiscal 2006, in order to achieve a more sustained approach to the Day, the Disability Affairs Unit of the Ministry of Social Development, co-ordinated a "Disability Awareness Week," which ran from November 28th – December 3rd 2005. The year's theme: "Rights of persons with disabilities: action in development" sought to highlight the interdependence between the rights of persons with disabilities and development.

Each day was allotted a particular disability type: Deaf Awareness Day, Learning Disabilities Day, Blind and Visually Impaired Day, Mental / Emotional Disabilities Day, Physical Disabilities Day and Cultural Activity. Non-Governmental Organizations were invited to participate during the week. These Non-Governmental Organizations hosted numerous functions: Open Day, Information Booths, Public Awareness sessions in schools and malls, Physiotherapy sessions, a walk-a-ton, and Concerts.

The achievements for this initiative include the networking of NGOs through various activities which sought to strengthen alliances. Increased awareness among the public was generated via a public awareness campaign and activities during the Disability Awareness Week. In fiscal 2006 the budgeted allocation is \$327,600.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$362,728.00.

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### • Disability Assistance Fund

The Disability Assistance Fund which is under the Ministry of Social Development was established in December 2003 to meet the needs of persons with disabilities and/ or organizations associated with persons with disabilities which do not qualify for assistance in the existing schemes offered by the Ministry. The main objectives of this programme are to support and empower NGOs/CBOS that focus on the needs of persons with disabilities and to create the institutional and organizational environment necessary for the easy integration of persons with disabilities into society. Under the Fund, applicants are provided with financial assistance to purchase aids, assistive devices and/ or therapeutic equipment.

The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 is \$750,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$186,198.00 which was divided among six non-profit organizations carrying out several events.

### • International Day of Older Persons

On October 1st of each year, the Ministry of Social Development commemorates the International Year of Older Persons by hosting a function to honour senior citizens in the country. The function is designed to foster social inclusion of older persons by recognizing their contributions and achievements at a community and or national level.

The main objectives of this event are:

- To encourage a sense of self worth and dignity among older persons,
- To sensitize the public by generating positive attitudes towards older persons, and;
- To provide an opportunity for social interaction among older persons and other groups.

In fiscal 2006, a luncheon was held in which hampers were awarded to older persons who met the criteria for this service. Entertainment was provided to encourage social interaction.

The budgeted allocation for 2006 fiscal year is \$150,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$97,713.00.

### • Function to Commemorate World Elder Abuse Awareness Day

As the name suggests, the main aim of this initiative was to raise public awareness on the various aspects of abuse and to sensitize key stakeholders to the need for protection of the human rights of older persons. More specifically, the function sought to:

- Raise national awareness on the value of older persons in society
- Alert stakeholders to their roles in reducing and preventing elder abuse
- Increase knowledge of the cultural, social, economic and demographic processes that affect older persons in community and institutional settings
- Promote a better understanding of elder abuse and its contributing factors
- Increase the participation of older persons in the community and society at large in addressing human rights issues
- Further promote the United Nations (1991) principle of dignity, security and freedom from abuse in the older years of life
- Link nationwide efforts to international initiatives to prevent elder abuse. This initiative sought to recognize and identify the significance of elder abuse at a national level that will sustain prevention efforts in all communities

A series of radio and television interviews were undertaken to observe the Day and to address the various types of elder abuse.<sup>53</sup> A special programme was held for the Inaugural Observance of the Day on June 16th, 2006. Awards were given to selected caregivers and hampers were distributed to commemorate the event. Other activities included the adoption of an elder and the adoption of a Community. Several governmental and non-governmental agencies

<sup>53</sup> A video presentation highlighting older persons and Homes for the Aged in Trinidad and Tobago was aired on CCNTV6, Gayelle: the Channel and NCC TV Channel 4.

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partnered with the Ministry of Social Development to ensure the success of this event.<sup>54</sup> The budgeted allocation for this initiative in fiscal 2006 is \$166,833.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$147,053.00.

### • Policy on Ageing

The Policy on Ageing seeks to:

- Create an environment which will facilitate the meaningful participation and involvement of older persons in society;
- Ensure the provision of adequate community-based services for older persons
- Promote and preserve the dignity and independence of older persons; and
- Encourage and promote education and public awareness on issues related to older persons.

In fiscal 2006, a National Consultation was held which provided stakeholders with an opportunity to provide comments on the Policy on Ageing. Two additional priority areas for action i.e. "Transportation" and "Disaster Preparedness", were added to the draft policy on ageing as a result of recommendations made from the public consultation.

Also, four open fora were held on ageing in North-east, North-central, and South Trinidad and Tobago, for persons aged fifty-five years and over to share their issues and ideas with officials of the Ministry of Social Development. The Policy was submitted for Cabinet's approval during fiscal 2006.

### • Empowerment Series for Residents of the Centre for Socially Displaced

The Empowerment Series for Residents of the Centre for Socially Displaced consists of sessions targeted toward the re-introduction of the basic skills needed for independent living, as well as empowering participants to take responsibility for their own lives. More specifically, this initiative seeks to:

- Reduce the number of residents who stay longer than nine (9) months at the Centre for Socially Displaced Persons (CSDP);

- Pre-empt the development of dependency in new admissions to CSD; and.
- Provide initial support to those residents identifying alternative accommodation.

Beneficiaries for the period were 11 persons with an estimated expenditure of \$61,550.00. The budgeted allocation for this period is \$100,000.00.

## Tobago

### • CARE

The CARE programme executed under the Tobago House of Assembly provides in-home care for the elderly. This programme is geared to assist the elderly who are left alone at home for most of the day or the elderly who live alone. The Programme provides jobs for persons who normally would not have gained employment.

In fiscal 2005/ 2006, \$3.5 million dollars was allocated for this programme and there were two hundred and twenty-two (222) beneficiaries, ninety-seven female employees and one hundred and twenty-five clients. The estimated expenditure for this programme is \$2.7 million. In fiscal 2007 there are plans to have the care givers trained further with refresher courses on the care for the elderly with particular emphasis on Alzheimer's disease. There are also plans to establish a day care centre for the aged, where they can socialize with their peers and share their life experiences.

### • Golden Age / Adolescents Partnership Programme

The Golden Age / Adolescents Partnership Programme and Long Term Care for the Elderly (Golden APPLE), falls under the aegis of the Division of Health and Social Services which collaborates with the Tobago Council of Elders for policy information. It targets persons between the ages of 17-25 years and is intended to provide care for persons

54 These agencies are as follows: Alzheimer's Association of Trinidad and Tobago; GAPP (Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs); Health Promotion Unit (Ministry of Health); Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce; Trinidad and Tobago Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

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convalescing, persons with a disability, and the elderly without family support.

The programme is designed to train young persons to respond to the demand for the provision of social care services for the elderly in communities. This programme promotes an appreciation for service to the community, increases employment among single women and facilitates the care of the elderly.

During fiscal 2006 eighty (80) persons were selected for the Golden APPLE training programme and over one (100) hundred elderly persons benefited from this programme. The estimated expenditure on the programme is \$500,000.00.

### • On De Block

The goal of this programme is to infiltrate and engage young people on the block in social and economic projects to provide a means of reducing "at risk behaviours". This programme was established in fiscal 2006 estimated expenditure is \$282,000.00 and fifteen (15) blocks having benefited from this programme.

### • Life After School Programme

The Life After School Programme, which is offered by the Department of Sport and Youth Affairs of the Tobago House of Assembly, utilizes the skills of young leaders as well as retired experts as facilitators. The programme provides assistance and supervision at the community level to young "at risk" persons in order to minimize the extent of delinquency and truancy in our school population and, demonstrates that young adults can also be role models and mentors and at the same time, give senior citizens an opportunity to work in close relationship with young adults who would benefit from their wisdom and expertise.

The main objectives of this programme are::

- To provide a system of alternative education and recreation for young people in communities; and
- To establish mentorship as a voluntary alternative with the goal of preserving an individual's decision making rights and enhancing his/her productivity and satisfaction with life.

In fiscal 2006, there were 800 participants, with forty trained peer educators. A data base has been established of fifty young persons and twenty-five mentors. The estimated expenditure for the programme in fiscal 2006 is \$400,000.00.

## Sustainable Livelihoods

The 'sustainable livelihoods' concept is the result of an enhanced understanding and conceptualization of the importance of meaningful work for ensuring freedom from poverty and sustained social development. It was birthed from the realization that a significant proportion of the world's population are employed or have a job, but exist in a state of degradation in which even their most basic needs for necessities such as food, clothing and shelter are not being met.

This realization triggered a shift in development strategy in which social policy and practice became livelihoods-oriented, thus transcending the previous restrictive emphasis on formal job creation as a primary means to freedom from want. The limitations of this approach are clearly articulated in the following UNDP definition which defines a livelihood as,

"engagement in a number of activities which, at times, neither require a formal agreement nor are limited to a particular trade. Livelihoods may or may not involve money. Jobs invariably do. Livelihoods are self-directing. .... Livelihoods are based on income derived from "jobs", but also on incomes derived from assets and entitlements."

Thus, this approach promotes a more holistic understanding and appreciation of the various activities and resources that contribute to a high quality of living, and to this end, facilitates the conscientious harnessing of these factors. Also, it gives new attention to the concept of employment as not an end in itself but, as a means of ensuring that the employed are able to live a life of dignity.

But the process of conceptual metamorphosis did not stop with the formulation of the livelihoods concept, but evolved



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to the creation of its current and more elaborate derivative dubbed 'sustainable livelihoods'.

For the purpose of this document the term sustainable livelihoods has been defined as:

'Initiatives that focus on enriching people's capacities to generate, maintain and enhance their means of living through engagement in meaningful work activities which are self-directing, thus enabling them to lead a life of dignity in a sustainable manner by safeguarding resources and opportunities for themselves, their communities and future generations and enabling them to cope with and recover from stresses and shocks. (Template Glossary: SSIP 2007).

In the context of Trinidad and Tobago's Vision 2020 National Strategic Plan, sustainable livelihoods is directly related to the twin issues of: i) employment and ii) social security. Consistent with the UN social development emphasis, "full employment in an environment of decent work"<sup>55</sup> has been identified as a primary goal for Trinidad and Tobago in the nation's quest to achieve developed country status<sup>56</sup>. The vision for social security in a developed Trinidad and Tobago is "(t)hat all citizens who are not earning an income through employment or business activity be granted a decent standard of living..."<sup>57</sup>.

### Programme Achievements for Fiscal 2006

The Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development, the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs and the Tobago House of Assembly pursued programmes and initiatives in fiscal 2005/2006, with a view towards sustainable livelihoods throughout the nation:

#### • Micro Enterprise Training and Development Grant (MEG)

This Grant assists needy clients of the respective Divisions of the Ministry of Social Development who are capable and willing to undertake a small business venture or engage in skills training. The primary objective of this grant is to foster self-sustainability and improve the economic circumstance of beneficiaries.

It targets persons/households living in poverty, victims of domestic violence, probationers, welfare recipients and other persons 18 years and over in receipt of benefits from the Ministry of Social Development. The budgeted allocation for 2006 is \$500,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$ 500,000.00. As at June 2006, a total of 24 persons received grants.

#### • Micro-Enterprise Loan (MEL) Facility

This Programme is a community empowerment and poverty reduction initiative, which equips Community Based Organizations to actively engage in promoting sustainable livelihoods among the poor through the provision of micro loans and to support micro entrepreneurs. MEL provides borrowers with community-based business loans; business training for all interested persons; after-loan services and business support. The objectives of this programme are:

- To contribute to the reduction of poverty by facilitating the creation of sustainable livelihoods among the poor.
- To empower Community Based Organizations to discharge micro credit and support.
- To support and promote entrepreneurship at the community level.

55 Interim report of the Labour and Social Security Committee – Vision 2020, p. 33.

56 The vision for the sector is: To achieve full employment status, creating sustainable employment opportunities in all sectors of the economy within the framework of decent work, where rights are respected, where income is adequate, where the environment is safe and, above all, where human dignity is respected and preserved. There should be equality in opportunities, equity in the distribution of opportunities, and social inclusion of all groups of society, men, women, young persons and other vulnerable groups. (Interim report of the Labour and Social Security Committee – Vision 2020, p. 34)

57 The vision in its entirety includes the following: For those who are retired that pensions, maintain the dignity of the old as well as provide substantial support toward the cost of ageing; as it relates to the affordability of goods and services which income support needs to be complemented by other support in the areas of health care and transportation. For those who are unemployed that there be income support to enable them to provide for their basic needs and targeted education and training programmes to empower them to earn their income. (Labour and Social Security – Framework for Action, p.1)



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It targets entrepreneur, CBOs, those in receipt of Public Assistance, or live at subsistence level or earn minimum wage and unemployed persons who live in impoverished situations. In fiscal 2006, three new community based organisations were selected to partner with the Ministry to execute the MEL programme, Sea Front Lions (Diego Martin), Cunjal Islamic Society (Princes Town) and St. Madeline Community Council. The total number of beneficiaries for fiscal 2006 is 57, which is disaggregated as 26 male and 31 female. The budgeted allocation for 2006 is \$ 1,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$250,000.00.

### • Unemployment Relief Programme

The Unemployment Relief Programme (URP) is a social programme with the core purpose of providing short-term employment opportunities with the widest possible participation.

The Ministry of Local Government envisions the role of this programme to contribute toward community development and social inclusion. This can be done through the empowering of people with the provision of short-term employment, skill enhancement and improvement in the physical and social infrastructure of the community.

The decentralization of the URP to 12 regions in Trinidad enabled a more equitable distribution of the resources of the Programme and to ensure greater community participation.

The URP constitutes:

- (i) **Core Programme** – which consists of construction and maintenance projects;
- (ii) **Women's Programme** – which focuses on the enhancement of the physical environment at Government institutions and properties by the engagement of maintenance and beautification projects as well as limited involvement in construction projects;
- (iii) **Special Projects** – which aims at providing projects of greater size and complexity than the Core Programme, and targets young and emerging entrepreneurs both as individuals and groups; and

- (iv) **Job Skills Training Component** – which provides training relevant for career sustaining development.

The URP is determined to be a vehicle that takes the country toward Vision 2020 by providing greater opportunities for improvement in the quality of life for our disadvantaged citizens. For fiscal 2005/06 the budgeted allocation is \$370,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$239,775,265.00. As at the third quarter of the fiscal year, 92,280 unemployed persons benefited from the programme.

Although the overall objective of the URP is to empower citizens through the provision of employment opportunities and skills enhancement, it is expected that there will be a reduced dependency on the programme for economic survival. It is also expected that there will be an enhancement of entrepreneurial and general skills of persons employed in Programme, and a fulfilment of socio-economic needs.

In addition to the decentralization of the programme to major administrative centres in more centrally located areas, the disbursement of cheques for fortnightly wages have been made over a 3 day period. This was seen to be significant since it reduced the lengthy queues and consequent worker disgruntlement.

The major constraints during the period have been inadequate accommodation at the Head Office and Regional Offices, sub-optimal procurement and distribution of construction materials to projects, and inadequate staffing in some critical areas. Actions taken to remedy these problems include enhanced building programme (accommodation), the establishment of two (2) administrative units to stream-line procurement process, and a strengthened recruitment drive.

### • National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO)

In fiscal 2002, the Ministry of Labour & Small and Micro Enterprise Development launched the National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO) as the primary agency to interface with prospective clients and to coordinate the loan and business development activities associated with the promotion of enterprise development.

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The services provided by NEDCO include:

- Assistance in developing business ideas from concepts into workable realities;
- Advice on the preparation and implementation of effective business plans;
- Access to start up capital and micro-finance facilities, including loans from as low as 8% per annum;
- Training, retraining and continuous learning – on various aspects of business operations through mentoring, continuing adult education, vocation and technical education and production and management skills programme; and
- Marketing support – to enable the small business to develop a competitive spirit.

To date, NEDCO has assisted over 5,000 persons through training in various aspects of small business management and granted over 6,143 loans (1,439 loans disbursed in fiscal 2006) for the establishment of small and micro enterprises. The level of NEDCO's lending has been increased recently to allow it to assist with the development of the micro and small enterprise sector. For fiscal 2006 estimated expenditure is \$33,175,000.00 and the allocation is the same.

A Strategic Working Relationship between NEDCO and YTEPP was developed in order to bring about the furtherance of both organizations' objectives. NEDCO will provide funding facilities and other support services to all YTEPP graduates. YTEPP will provide a database of contact information for all YTEPP graduates and facilitate the introduction of a NEDCO Business Development Officer in YTEPP programmes.

The Youth Entrepreneurial Success (YES) Programme targets young persons from the ages of 18 – 30 years to develop a culture of entrepreneurship, particularly amongst the disadvantaged. The programme is carried out through NEDCO and focuses on the development of youth and sustainable development through entrepreneurship. For the fiscal 2006, the estimated expenditure is \$ 528,000.00. The budgeted allocation is \$1,200,000.00. Approximately 142 persons were trained for the YES programme at the Entrepreneurial

Training Institute & Incubation Centre (ETIIC) in Barataria and San Fernando.

### • Terminal Malls

The Terminal Malls were established under the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs to serve as small / micro business incubators where small scale entrepreneurs would receive well appointed facilities in high traffic areas on a temporary basis at minimal rental with the expectation that these facilities will provide exposure into the business world. The facilities are temporary in the expectation that with sufficient growth and development of entrepreneurial skills, the tenants would move on thus paving the way for new businesses to benefit from the experience and opportunities.

The objectives are to create job opportunities for unemployed persons through the development of entrepreneurial skills; and to give small scale entrepreneurs exposure into the business world. Communities with Micro and Small scale producers as well as aspiring small scale entrepreneurs at village/community level benefit from the Terminal Malls.

One hundred small businesses benefited from Terminal Malls during fiscal 2006. The budgeted allocation for 2006 is \$2,500,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$2,000,000.00. The targeted number of beneficiaries for fiscal 2007 is 120 individuals.

### • Transformation and Development Centers

These centers provide meals and appropriate training as well as services designed to improve self esteem of recipients and self reliance. The objectives are to transform the lives of the needy to the extent that recipients can sustain themselves and contribute to their community. The Transformation and Development Centers caters for persons who are unemployed, socially displaced and persons living in poverty. During fiscal 2006, 2000 persons benefited from these centers. The main services offered during this period was the provision of meals and training designed to improve self esteem of recipients and self reliance. The budgeted allocation for 2006 was \$3,000,000.00 and the expenditure to the end

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of the 3rd quarter is \$885,412.00. The targeted number of beneficiaries for fiscal 2007 is 1800 persons.

### Initiatives

#### • Training programme for Friendly Societies

The Training programme for Friendly Societies was an initiative undertaken in June 2006 under the Ministry of Labour & Small and Micro Enterprise. The Friendly Societies are community-based organizations, which not only promote the principle of thrift but that of brotherhood and civic harmony. They offer financial services in the form of grants and soft loans, which assist in reducing poverty and helping individuals in times of distress. The programme engages in the training of the executive and members of friendly societies, as to strengthen the management and operations of these entities. The budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 was \$100,000.00. A total of 289 persons have been trained with estimated expenditure of \$59,240.00 for the period October 2005 – June 2006.

#### • Enterprise Development Division (EDD)

Having recognized the significant role that the Small and Micro Enterprise Sector plays in the creation of employment and elimination of poverty, Government took the initiative to establish the Enterprise Development Division (EDD) within the Ministry of Labour & Small and Micro Enterprise in 2002 to examine and provide guidance to potential entrepreneurial development as well as to serve as the advocate for the development of the SME Sector.

Since its inception the EDD has drafted a Fair Share Policy (FSP), which proposes an allocation of a designated share of all government purchasing and capital spending to qualified small and micro enterprises. It also seeks to encourage large contractors to subcontract to small businesses. This Policy has been submitted for consideration by Cabinet and will be effected if approved.

The United Nations (UN) declared 2005 the International Year of Micro Credit. An International Conference was held in 2005 by the Ministry of Labour & Small and Micro Enterprise as mandated by the UN which was dedicated towards the strengthening of Micro Credit Institutions. In December 2005, an award ceremony was held for individual and institutional recipients of Micro Credit in Trinidad and Tobago.

### Tobago

#### • Reach Programme

The Division of Health and Social Services, is the executing agency for this programme which aims to provide social services clients with a small business grant, training, education, and social support services to help them gain economic independence and self-sufficiency with the aim of weaning them off reliance on government transfers. The overall goal of the programme is to improve the quality of life of needy persons through entrepreneurial development, and education and training development.

The Division provides a complete package of advisory, training, mentorship and funding services to micro and small business enterprises. Its main objectives are to provide the support and resources necessary to serve the clients' legitimate needs for establishing small and micro industries and to use entrepreneurship as a means of developing individuals in their communities.

The target group includes youth, single mothers and men, who cannot access capital or support for entrepreneurial activity and the Programme is designed to build human capacity within communities as well as improve and develop families as viable and sustainable units for social development.

The BAGO Market is a component of the Reach programme, which was established to serve as a small/micro business incubator. Small-scale entrepreneurs are assisted with temporary facilities in high traffic areas on a temporary basis with the expectation that these facilities will provide exposure into the business world.

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During the fiscal year 2006, One hundred and ninety-one (191) businesses were started through the REACH Programme, at an estimated expenditure of \$800,000.00.

### • Small Grants

This programme is intended to assist and encourage unemployed persons and talented persons / groups in the communities to embark on small businesses projects. Successful projects create self-sufficiency among low income earners, improve self-esteem and lead to improved standards of living. The programme is administered through the Division of Community Development and Culture.

In fiscal 2006, the budgeted allocation for this programme is \$180,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is \$193,225.00 which included:

- The purchase of musical equipment and assistance to artistes for the production of CDs;
- Assistance awarded to three queens;
- Small Business assistance given to three (3) entrepreneurs; and
- Assistance granted for short courses.

## Youth Development, Sports And Recreation

Youth Development can be defined as "...the ongoing growth process in which all youth are engaged in attempting to (1) be useful, and be spiritually grounded, and (2) build skills and competencies that allow them to function and contribute in their daily lives." Pittman (1993).

This description accurately describes youth development as a process that all young people go through on the way to adulthood. As the definition implies, it is a process or journey that automatically involves all of the people around a youth – family and community. A young person will not feel safe, cared for, valued, useful, and spiritually grounded unless their family and community provide them with the support and opportunities they need along the way. Thus youth

development is also a process in which family and community must actively participate.

Youth development furthermore can be considered to encapsulate the holistic formulation of youth values. It is an effective approach for preventing problems and provides a framework for creating the support and opportunities young people need to build on their assets and prepare themselves for a successful future as adults. Since youth development is a way of doing things, reflecting a particular set of values and a unique philosophy, it is applicable in many vital areas, such as prevention of deviant behaviour.

A core component of youth development practice is the creation of safe physical and emotional spaces for young people to grow and learn. For this reason, it is a particularly effective tool for the creation of an understanding of social responsibility. In the area of public health for instance, youth development is particularly appropriate because it is an effective primary prevention strategy and a proactive, asset-based approach that focuses both on the environment in which our young people grow up and provides examples of what we do want young people to do and become, as opposed to focusing simply on what we don't want them to do and become.

Sport is seen as having the ability to unify persons all around the world. As manifested in major sporting events such as FIFA World Cup 2006, it can unite people from all walks of life and is therefore as essential part of culture, social values, lifestyle and the national identity of many countries. Families, friends, and the community as a whole often get together to play or watch their favorite sport. When a local athlete wins, the community celebrates with one voice. Sport therefore performs several critical social functions benefiting the individual, family, community and nation.

Trinidad and Tobago's Government recognizes the need for sport to be developed as an economic activity and as a social activity. The Vision 2020 Sub-Committee has determined that by the year 2020:

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“Sport will be the vehicle for human and national development ensuring that our lives are enriched through total participation, healthy lifestyles, quality training, excellence and national access in sport. We will also be a world class sporting nation, satisfying local, regional and international needs, while at the same time providing meaningful, sustainable employment and contributing to the national well being.”

Sport as an economic activity speaks of its development as an industry. Billions of dollars are generated in revenue through this means. The rights to broadcast major sporting events are among the costliest items of merchandise available to the investor. Therefore the sporting events which take place have flourished financially whether it may be the World Cup of Football, Cricket, Olympic Games, or any of the major Golf or Tennis Tournaments. The countries hosting such events earn foreign revenues through businesses such as hotels, catering, and travel agencies. Many sports facilities generate more revenue when used for other forms of entertainment such as music concerts, and thus give a boost to the entertainment industry. Additionally, this has led to positive spin-offs for the entertainment and tourism industries, as well as sports equipment, sports apparel, sport medicine and sports science industries.

In order for economic benefits to be reaped from sport, it is important for the actual product to be of a high quality and this enable wide-scale marketing. As such, the Trinidad and Tobago Government must ensure careful and efficient development of each and every sporting discipline in the country.

Another advantage to be gleaned from the development of a sporting industry lies in the area of sport tourism. Tourism has been identified as the number one industry in the world and accounted for nearly 700 million international travelers worldwide in the year 2000, representing a total expenditure of more than US \$476 billion. (Agusto Huescar, 2001).

At the World Conference on Sport and Tourism held in Barcelona in 2001, the commercialization and promotion of

these two sectors were discussed. Among the points noted when dealing with achievement of complementarities and increased profits was that there is need for government support for the development of sport and tourism. If developed to its true potential sport and tourism as an industry has the ability to be the largest employer, revenue generator, and foreign exchange earner in the country.

The Trinidad and Tobago Government also recognizes the need for sport to be developed as a social activity. A 'Sports for All' policy has been embraced, with an understanding that participation in sport is a vital component for any developed nation. Not only is sport an important means to enable one to be fit and healthy, sport is also an effective way to integrate family and community by encouraging human interaction. Therefore it is extremely important to make sport accessible to all.

Involving everyone in some aspect of sport will include the creation of a culture of appreciation for sport. The main thrust of growing a sports culture is to get more and more people interested in sports. This requires a mindset change in the local community, especially specific population segments that have relatively lower rates of sports participation. For maximum effectiveness, it is necessary to segment target groups so that recommended initiatives can be customized to meet different needs. In this respect particular attention must be paid to the inclusion of children, the youth, the middle to old aged, and especially the differently-able. Attention must also be paid to the varying levels of interest in sport and implement measures to address this by way of the different educational institutions, the media, community programmes, etc.

### Programme Achievements For Fiscal 2006

The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs and the Tobago House of Assembly pursued the following programmes in fiscal 2005/2006, with a view towards youth and sport development throughout the nation:



## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

### • Provision of Adolescent Friendly Health Services in Youth Facilities: Youth Health Programme

This programme under the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs provides young people with general information on health matters which affect them through the establishment of Youth Friendly Health Centres, the conduct of Youth Health Caravans and provision of a Peer Education Programme on the prevention of HIV/AIDS and STI's. Peer Education is a process where young people undertake educational activities with their peers aimed at developing knowledge, attitudes, beliefs and skills aimed at enabling them to be responsible for and protect their own health. The objectives of this programme are:

- To foster youth empowerment and peer support in the promotion of healthy lifestyles by young people
- To provide 10,000 young persons with health information in an environment where young people are free to air their problems and concerns on such matters as HIV/AIDS by 2007.

During fiscal 2006 Youth Health Caravans were held at Brian Lara Promenade, Harris Promenade, Point Fortin, Gasparillo, Moruga, Sangre Grande, Rio Claro, New Grant, California, Cedros, and Diego Martin. A total of twenty-one caravans were conducted in fiscal 2006. An estimated 3150 beneficiaries participated in the project. This programme received a budgeted allocation of \$4,000,000.00 for the fiscal year 2006 and the estimated expenditure is the same.

### • Information Made Available through Technology (imaT) Centres

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs views knowledge and education as key long term solutions to combat and control problems associated with the development of youth, which can assist citizens in making informed decisions for a healthy productive lifestyle. The programme is therefore aimed towards the delivery of information and training through technology to achieve the Ministry's strategic goals. The imaT Centres are designed to attract and be of interest to the various client populations of the Ministry by focusing on the delivery of information and training through technology. The objectives of the imaT Centres are:

- To foster employment and marketability of users
- To provide affordable and easy access to modern technology
- To create access to a public domain of useful information
- To promote physical, education and sport through e-training methods.

In fiscal 2006, a developer was identified to create the imaT database and website and a contract sent out for the supply of services to develop content for the project. Computers were acquired to accommodate data for the project as well. A pilot imaT Centre was established at the St Paul Street Multipurpose Facility. The programme will commence in November 2006. The programme received a budgeted allocation for fiscal 2006 of \$1,000,000.00 and the estimated expenditure is the same.

### • Sport Training and Enhancement Programme (STEP)

STEP is a 'talent identification' Programme that targets young persons 8-14 years from districts nationwide. The program is conducted over a three week period from July 1st - 29th 2006. The main objective is to promote early development of general motor activity (hand, eye, head co-ordination). The budgeted allocation is \$445,000.00 for fiscal 2006 and the estimated expenditure is the same. In fiscal 2006, 4,000 persons benefited from the programme.

### • National Sport Festival

This programme was held in July 2006 at the Eastern Regional Complex, Tacarigua. Participants competed and took part in 14 sporting disciplines, such as 5-a-side football, half court basketball, full court netball, windball cricket, 6-a-side volleyball, 5-a-side tagby, table tennis, hockey, a 5K Road race, cycle race, aerobics, Ms. Youth Fitness, cheerleading, tennis and sports for the physically challenged (basketball, football and volleyball). The budgeted allocation for the event is \$495,000.00. In fiscal 2006, 405 males and 595 females in all benefited from the activities.



## Review of Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006

### • Women and Girls in Sports Festival

This programme aims to develop a sporting culture that enables and values the full involvement of women and girls in every aspect of sport. The main objective of the programme is to encourage participation of women and girls in Sport and the primary target groups are women and girls interested in sports within the East/West corridor. During 2006, 500 women participated in this programme. The budgeted allocation was \$160,000.00 with an estimated expenditure of \$160,000.00.

## Tobago

### • Building Bridges

This Youth Programme provides opportunities for the socialization and development of young people within a Caribbean context. The Programme commenced in October 2005 and the main objectives included:

- To provide a medium for the exchange of youth programmes and best practices in youth and development work; and
- To broaden the understanding of young people to an appreciation of Caribbean Culture.

For the 2006 fiscal period thirty (30) youth were trained as youth ambassadors and estimated expenditure on this programme is \$90,000.00

### • Youth Development Programme

The aim of this programme is to provide sustainable development through the implementation of programmes to address the needs, concerns and issues of youth. Some projects which are implemented through this programme include:

- Youth Empowerment Centres;
- Mentorship Programme that address the situation of male marginalization; and
- Media Programmes which assist with filming and airtime for local programme that utilize and direct the potential of the youth.

The intended outcome of this programme is to improve the decision-making skills among participants and to reduce "at risk" behaviour. The estimated expenditure for this programme for fiscal 2006 is \$1.7 million. Approximately 625 youth benefited from this programme in the period under review.

# Sector Plans for 2007

The focus of this section will be the planned activities in the social sector for fiscal 2007, in respect of the implementation of the Vision 2020 Operational Plan 2007 - 2010. The initiatives will be discussed in the context of the framework for action for the national development priorities- development of an innovative people and a nurturing caring society. Plans for the sector in Tobago will also be addressed as a separate section.

## Development of Innovative People

### Education

For the period 2007 – 2009 the Ministry of Education's policies and agenda for action are supportive of the national goals to provide opportunities for producing innovative individuals and for developing their skills and realizing their full potential. In short, the programmes of this Ministry are fully in support of national development since they place people at the centre of the developmental process. The creation of a seamless education system is a continuing priority of the Ministry of Education and will be further expanded during the next fiscal year 2007 and beyond.

The main strategic initiatives for 2007 are outlined below:

- The review and revision of the education system to ensure cost effectiveness and compliance with contemporary needs.
- The continued restructuring and decentralization of the Ministry of Education through establishment of full service district offices.
- The establishment and implementation of Local School Boards at all Government Primary Schools and ECCE Centres.
- The development and implementation of an Education Management Information System (EMIS), which would facilitate the integration of ICT throughout the Ministry.

- The improvement of the Ministry of Education's capacity for management, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation and training of personnel.
- The Development of a Training Plan for the Ministry of Education encompassing among others, the following:
  - Managing in a decentralized Environment
  - Effective Writing
  - The Emerging Role of Clerical Officers
  - Quality Customer Service
  - Supervisory Leadership
- The Modernization of Primary and Secondary School Curriculum.
- Development and implementation of new strategies for testing and assessment and international benchmarking.
- The introduction of a teacher substitute system to reduce the loss of teaching contact hours for secondary students due to teacher absenteeism.
- The continued distribution of National Test results to schools to serve as indicators of areas for remediation.
- The improvement of the literacy level of secondary students through: Development and implementation of a full-year reading programme integrating different learning modalities for low-functioning students.
- Development of a dynamic research and evaluation system: through research on student enrolment Forms I-V in order to establish student tracer studies to identify drop-outs and potential drop-outs in secondary education.
- Accessibility to educational opportunities for all and the creation of opportunities for life long learning.
- The provision of educational opportunities through the expansion of the Adult Education Programme to out of school youths and adults.
- The Continued Development of a culture of peace within schools and the wider society

## Tertiary Education

The Vision 2020 Operation Plan for the nation envisions that Trinidad and Tobago will yield a “highly skilled, well-educated people aspiring to a local culture of excellence that is driven by equal access to learning opportunities.” With particular reference to the tertiary sector, the Ministry of Science Technology and Tertiary Education (MSTTE) acknowledges that all citizens should be afforded equal access to tertiary-level education, and the Ministry’s portfolio would be aligned to a work plan involving four key result oriented areas, namely

- The planning and delivery of tertiary education system services and products in terms of both quantity and quality;
- The provision of a contemporary and responsive infrastructural and technological platform that has both physical and virtual elements;
- The planning and provision of relevant policy using Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) indicators, appropriate for the vision of achieving developed country status; and
- Increasing the cadre of persons with the requisite and appropriate levels and quality of education and training to equip them to contribute to the development of self, family, community, society and nation.

In fiscal 2007, the key areas for action in the Tertiary Education Sector are as follows:

### Access

- COSTATT will undergo organizational changes in its mandate and will be transformed into a comprehensive national community college. It will be renamed as the Community College of Trinidad and Tobago and will have the four-fold mission of career education, developmental education, transfer education, and continuing and community education. Information resources and management training will be integrated into all

programmes being offered in order to enhance work place relations. The proposed national community college will also prioritize training and education for the national health sector, as well as the expansion of post-secondary training in foreign languages and the performing arts.

- In fiscal 2007, the MSTTE will initiate a process of integration in which the following institutions will align their operations with the objectives and structures of the University of Trinidad and Tobago:
  - Eastern Caribbean Institute of Agriculture and Forestry (ECIAF);
  - Centeno Experimental Station;
  - National Institute of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (NIHERST);
  - Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA);
  - Caribbean Industrial Research institute (CARIRI); and
  - Metal Industries Company (MIC) Limited (tool, die and machinery functions)

Overall, there will be a focus on Applied Research and Development and the promotion of a scientific culture.

- The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) will expand its programme offerings in the areas of teacher education, graduate study and research. New functions will also be established in the form of:
  - An Earth Science Centre, comprising an Environment Unit and a Marine Unit;
  - A Centralized Technical Services/Workshop Unit;
  - A Publishing Unit;
  - A Centre for Applied Agriculture and Food Production; and
  - The Academy of the Performing Arts

## Sector Plans for 2007

- The University of the West Indies (UWI) will engage in a comprehensive review of their graduate programmes. This will be undertaken with the objective of enhancing the performance and competitiveness of the institution in the areas of graduate study and research.
- The MSTTE will continue to collaborate with the Virtual University for Small States on the Commonwealth (VUSSC) in order to establish a platform for collaboration and connectivity for tertiary education through the Campus Connect Initiative. This is also intended to facilitate training opportunities for local educators in Instructional Design, and Content Development for Distance Education.

## Affordability

- It is anticipated that the total number of tertiary-level education institutions (TLIs) that will be included in the Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses (GATE) programme will increase, given the rise in the number of applications from private TLIs. This will also lead to an increase in the number of GATE-approved programmes being offered by TLIs throughout the country.
- During fiscal 2007, the Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) will be available for the benefit of students in need pursuing recognized programmes of study at local and regional tertiary institutions. It will provide financial assistance to students, in addition to the assistance provided by the GATE programme, and is expected to replace the Students' Revolving Loan Fund (SRLF) and the University Students' Guarantee Loan Fund (USGLF).

## Quality

The schedule of activities of the Accreditation Council in the new financial year will include the:

- Registration of all public and at least 75% of all private tertiary education institutions in Trinidad & Tobago;
- Development of a pool of Peer Evaluators recruited from local, regional and international sources to facilitate the accreditation process;
- Development and implementation of a policy on specialized accrediting bodies;
- Establishment of Memoranda of Understandings/Agreements with local, regional and international professional bodies and specialized accrediting agencies regarding the accreditation of specialized programmes and awards;
- Development of a mechanism to determine the recognition status of institutions and programmes of countries without accrediting agencies/bodies;
- Development of criteria for the accreditation of Distance Education Programmes;
- Development of a mechanism for the approval and/or accreditation of short courses and the development of quality criteria for the institutions that offer these courses
- Development of a Quality Management System that is consistent with international standards and codes of practice for accrediting agencies/bodies; and
- Accreditation of all public institutions and at least 25% of all private institutions operating in Trinidad & Tobago.

### Policy Formulation

In September 2006 Government will schedule a series of public consultations on the existing Green Paper on the National Policy on the Development of Tertiary Education and Distance and Lifelong Learning. The intention is to engage in a consultative process with key stakeholders on the development and expansion of tertiary education in Trinidad and Tobago. The following policy matters will be addressed in the new fiscal year:

- The governance structure of the Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute (THTI) ;
- The governance structure of the Metal Industries Company (MIC) Limited and the National Energy Skills Centre (NESC);
- Amendments to the Accreditation Council Act in relation to the regulations and registration process;
- Amendments to the COSTATT Act ;
- The University of Trinidad and Tobago Vesting Bill; and
- The Science, Technology and Innovation Policy and Plan.

### Skills Development and Training

In fiscal 2007 Government will invest significantly in human resource development to facilitate skills enhancement and personal growth throughout the nation. A number of the new initiatives specific to the Skills Training Programme under the mandate of the Ministry of Science Technology and Tertiary Education have been outlined in Chapter IV under the Review of Programmes for 2006 and Plans for 2007. The macro level initiatives are detailed in this section.

With reference to Technical and Vocational Education and Training, the MSTTE will focus on increasing access in the new fiscal year. It is therefore giving consideration to the introduction of a financial plan, similar to the GATE programme, in which Government will be responsible for the

payment of fees for technical vocational training at eligible institutions.

The MSTTE will fully implement the Rehabilitating Inmates through Training and Retraining Programme in 2007, in collaboration with the Ministry of National Security. Selected participants will be convicted inmates between the ages of 18 and 50 years, who will be released no earlier than six (6) months and no later than two (2) years from the start of training. The programme will certify trainees to National Vocational Occupational Standards through the use of the Trinidad and Tobago National Vocational Qualifications (TTNVQ) Framework.

Strategic changes have been made to the training programmes being offered by the Metal Industries Company Limited (MIC) and the National Energy Skills Limited (NESC). For the new financial year it is proposed that four (4) categories of training should be offered under the MIC programme as follows:

- National Skills Development Programme (NSDP);
- Helping You Prepare for Employment (HYPE);
- Advanced Programmes based on NSDP and HYPE; and
- Specialized training to bridge the gaps in the skills training system.

It is further proposed that the NESC programme should focus on four (4) broad categories of training in 2007 as follows:

- Flexible Multi-skilled Craftsman;
- Industry Specific Craftsman Training;
- Computer Literacy Training; and
- Safety Training.

The NESC will continue to address the skills requirements of the energy and energy-related industries in fiscal 2007, and will cater to the demands of each industry. Training under the NESC programme will also be expanded in the new fiscal year, culminating in the award of Journeyman and Master Craftsman certificates.

## Sector Plans for 2007

### Science, Technology and Innovation

In 2007, NIHERST would continue its existing STI activities while strengthening and improving its programmes to reach a wider target group. Where the programmes can be integrated into UTT activities, this reorganisation will be undertaken. NIHERST will also assist UTT with community outreach activities and service learning, the management of transition studies, event management and the planning of the Science is Fun Park within the Linear Park at Wallerfield.

The focus for 2006/2007 will be on, the:

- Continuation of the research and policy agenda; and
- Science popularisation will be strengthened through:
  - a) enhanced outreach activities,
  - b) an expanded thrust in science education;
  - c) the promotion of a culture of STI and entrepreneurship will be heightened through collaboration with other national agencies; and
  - d) science communication

### Nurturing A Caring Society

#### Health

The provision of quality health care through an efficient health care system will continue to be a priority for Government in fiscal 2007. As a prerequisite for achieving sustained improvement in the health and well-being of the population, the Ministry of Health has as its main objective, the creation of a health service that will foster long, healthy lives among the citizenry. The Ministry remains focused on achieving the goal of creating a health service that will set new standards of healthcare in the region. It is important to maintain the existing gains that have been made in health over the years. As part of the Ministry's commitment to healthcare in Trinidad and Tobago therefore, in fiscal 2007 it will concentrate on initiatives geared towards improving the general health status of the population, the performance of health care delivery systems and the creation of a client-centred health care environment.

During the new fiscal year, the Ministry of Health will pay particular attention to primary healthcare by:

- (i) Empowering people to take ownership and assume responsibility for their own health;
- (ii) Protecting the health of the public through reduction and control of environmental health risks;
- (iii) Enhancing the prevention, treatment and control of non-communicable diseases and other lifestyle-related incidents;
- (iv) Improving the quality of mental well-being in the population; and
- (v) Expanding programmes that promote health at the community level to ensure that all persons have access to existing health services.

This will involve investment in and expansion of initiatives in the areas of primary health care, as well as health promotion as the Ministry seeks to prevent and manage the occurrence of chronic diseases. The following initiatives will be pursued in fiscal 2007:

- In addition to the finalization of the School Health Policy, it is proposed that 100% of the target population for the School Health Programme will be screened for early detection of visual and hearing impairments. The programme will also be expanded to secondary schools through the use of initiatives such as the Healthy Family Life Education curriculum, and the School Health Nursing initiative;

- The Ministry of Health, in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs, non-governmental organizations, private agencies and Regional Health Authorities, will offer the Community Care Development Programme. The aim of the programme is to help people who need assistance, to live as independently as possible in their own homes or to arrange for care and support in the community to meet their needs. Phase I of the programme takes the format of a pilot project for the provision of community-based quality care options for the elderly



and physically and/or mentally challenged children based on need. This will involve the establishment of alternate care programmes at public health institutions as part of provisions of the Health Sector Reform Programme.

- Trinidad and Tobago ratified the Framework Convention for Tobacco Control (FCTC) in 2004. In fiscal 2007, the Ministry of Health will work towards the implementation of its provisions, and initiate a co-ordinated programme for national tobacco control by commissioning the required expertise.
- The Ministry of Health will continue to invest in Health Sector Reform in fiscal 2007 by developing a number of critical elements for the proposed National Health Insurance System (NHIS). The main areas of focus will be on the designing of programme guidelines, administrative structures and procedures, registration and monitoring procedures, the definition of the benefits and services lists, and identification of areas for supplementary insurance. The objectives of the National Health Insurance (NHI) Unit will also include deciding on the most appropriate method of financing that is based on the principles of equity and universal access to health services. During the financial year 2007, the Ministry of Health will engage in a programme of public education, in the form of stakeholder consultations and town meetings, to increase public awareness of the NHIS and garner support for its implementation.
- An important goal of the Health Sector Reform Programme is the improvement in the quality of services provided by the health sector. The Ministry of Health proposes to further improve service delivery in health care institutions through the operationalization of the Health Services Accreditation Programme. This will include the development of National Health Services Accreditation legislation and the establishment of a Health Services Accreditation Council. Additionally, the Ministry will engage in the strengthening of the

Quality Management Programme and the Risk Management System and the institutionalization of the Quality Audit System.

- The development of the National Oncology Programme will entail a comprehensive approach to the treatment and prevention of cancer, as well as offer services in screening, education, health care and palliation. The Centre will also benefit from the Ministry's firm resolve to provide state of the art equipment to all health care facilities in the country through the use of a tendering system. It is envisaged that the Centre will be operational by May 2007.
- The Ministry of Health is committed to reducing the backlog of surgeries and waiting time for elective surgeries in Trinidad and Tobago. In fiscal 2007, surgeries will continue with private and not-for-profit partnerships on a monthly basis.
- To effectively address the HIV/AIDS pandemic, the Ministry of Health will continue to collaborate with the National AIDS Co-ordinating Committee to implement its components of the five-year national strategic plan for the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS. This will involve the provision of anti-retroviral treatment and the expansion of a programme for voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) for HIV. The Ministry will also continue to implement its five (5) year Strategic Plan for addressing the disease. In fiscal 2007, the Ministry will continue to develop a National VCT Policy, as well as a Plan of Action and guidelines for voluntary counselling and testing. Some of the identifiable objectives are: the promotion of safe and healthy sexual behaviour, and reduction in the rate of mother to child transmission.
- The Ministry of Health proposes to further improve service delivery in health care institutions across the nation through the:
  - Strengthening of the capacity of Regional Health Authorities to deliver health and

## Sector Plans for 2007

- wellness services;
- Restructuring of the National Surveillance Unit as regards the prevention, treatment and control of communicable diseases;
- Continued development of human resource capacity and the implementation of change management strategies;
- Strengthening of the policy-making, monitoring and governance role of the Ministry;
- Fostering effective inter-ministerial collaboration that will contribute to the health and well-being of the population; and
- Implementation and use of Health Information Systems and Information Technology in key business areas.

## HIV/AIDS

The Five-year National HIV/AIDS Strategic Plan (NSP) is founded upon the principles of inclusion, sustainability, accountability and respect for human rights, as espoused by the National AIDS Co-ordinating Committee (NACC). The NACC is charged with the key role of advising Government on HIV/AIDS and co-ordinating the national response to the epidemic. It also has oversight of the implementation of the NSP, which identifies five (5) priority areas through which a co-ordinated response to prevention and control of the pandemic can be executed. These areas are as follows:

- Prevention;
- Treatment Care and Support;
- Advocacy and Human Rights;
- Surveillance and Research; and
- Programme Management, Co-ordination and Evaluation.

In fiscal 2007, the NACC will remain committed to overseeing policy design and programme implementation in each of these priority areas, the intention being to arrest the rapid spread of the disease and limit its socio-economic impact.

The first priority area, Prevention, is geared towards the reduction of the susceptibility of the national population to HIV infection. In 2007, Prevention programmes will focus on six (6) main areas: 1) strengthening HIV/AIDS/STI awareness campaigns for the general population, 2) implementing behaviour-change interventions that target vulnerable and high-risk populations, 3) improving the availability and accessibility of condoms, 4) strengthening the prevention of mother-to-child transmission (PMTCT) programme, 5) building the capacity and expanding voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) throughout the country, including the establishment of youth-friendly VCT centres, and 6) establishing set guidelines and policies for post-exposure services and ensuring the availability of these services.

Programmes for Treatment, Care and Support in 2007 will focus on 1) the implementation of a national system for the clinical management and treatment of HIV/AIDS, inclusive of improved access to treatment and care, 2) the purchase of drugs and equipment at a reduced cost, 3) the provision of appropriate economic and social support to persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) and to those affected by HIV and AIDS, and 4) the training of health care providers to ensure that HIV treatment is accessible across Trinidad and Tobago.

Priority area three (3) Advocacy and Human Rights is aimed at promoting openness and acceptance of PLWA in the workplace and in the wider community, and creating a legal framework that protects the rights of PLWHA and all persons affected by the disease. In 2007 Advocacy Programmes will focus on 1) developing national workplace policies within the public and private sectors, 2) creating a legal framework that protects the rights of PLWHA, 3) establishing a system for effectively monitoring the abuse of human rights and identifying avenues for redress, and 4) sensitizing and mobilizing opinion leaders on HIV/AIDS human rights issues.

Under priority area 4, Surveillance and Research, programmes for fiscal 2007 will be concentrated on the 1) improvement of existing surveillance systems within the public and private sectors, 2) strengthening of national laboratory services, and 3)

supporting effective clinical, behavioural, and epidemiological research on HIV/AIDS and related issues. It is expected that the results of this research will guide the development of targeted HIV/AIDS education programming, intervention strategies and policy development.

A primary objective of the NACC is the achievement of national commitment, support, and ownership of an expanded and co-ordinated response to HIV/AIDS. Initiatives in 2007 will therefore focus on 1) the establishment of HIV/AIDS focal points within Government Ministries and AIDS Coordinating Units to provide further support in developing and implementing HIV/AIDS work plans, 2) the mobilization of adequate sustained financial and technical resources to support the implementation of annual strategic work plans, such as ensuring that sufficient yearly budgetary allocations are made available for successful implementation of HIV/AIDS projects within the public sector, 3) the finalization of a monitoring and evaluation work plan, and 4) the continuation of capacity-building among critical stakeholders, in particular the NGO sector. These initiatives contribute to the fifth priority area, Programme Management, Coordination and Evaluation.

In the process of implementing the key components of the NSP, the NACC is in partnership with the Ministry of Health, which holds responsibility for all the clinical aspects of the NSP, and is therefore instrumental in the workings of priority areas, 1, 2, 4 and 5. In fiscal 2007, work with the Ministry of Health will continue to ensure that it has sufficient capacity to implement the Health Sector component of the NSP. Close collaboration will also continue with a range of other Ministries and with ALL sectors in society. The formula for success will involve the strengthening of sector programmes, the brokering of partnerships across the spectrum of implementers and the establishment of improved national, regional and international communications and sharing of best-practices.

## **Youth, Sport and Recreation**

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs remains committed to the implementation of the objectives of the National Youth and Sport Policies. In 2007, within the context of an institutional framework for improving service delivery systems in the areas of youth and sport, the Ministry will continue its drive toward facilitating the implementation of the policies. This will involve the assumption of a new role as a policy and programme facilitator. It is also expected that Government investment in these areas will foster an enabling environment to empower and create a sense of direction among the youth of the nation.

### **Youth**

The National Youth Policy (NYP) guides activities towards the development of youth in Trinidad and Tobago.

In fiscal 2007, the programme of activities designed for development of the nation's youth will focus on giving effect to the structures established during the previous fiscal year. The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs will form partnerships with youth-led and youth-serving organizations throughout the country in order to advance the objectives of the National Youth Policy. The principal strategies to be used will involve:

- Undertaking research and providing information on youths;
- Emphasizing policy formulation and co-ordination in youth development;
- Establishing and supporting youth organizations;
- Improving the efficiency and effectiveness of youth development programmes and facilities;
- Increasing the quality and quantity of youth information; and
- Developing mechanisms based on participatory resolution to address social problems of the youth of the nation.

## Sector Plans for 2007

Activities for 2007 will include the staffing of the Project Implementation Unit (PIU), located within the Ministry, which was established to oversee the implementation of youth programmes as outlined in the National Youth Policy. In order to improve service delivery to the youth population, the decentralization of the Unit has been proposed for 2007.

The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs will continue to pursue the process of establishing the National Youth Council of Trinidad and Tobago (NYCTT) in fiscal 2007, with a view towards completion. It is intended that the NYCTT will improve the delivery of youth services to clients by serving as an umbrella group for youth-led and youth serving organizations.

In the effort to provide capacity building at all levels within youth organizations, the Ministry will continue to focus on the institutional strengthening of Youth Councils in 2007. This will involve collaboration and co-operation with key stakeholders to address their needs on a sustained basis. The emphasis will be on projects based on continuous improvement systems for the benefit of clients.

There will be increased collaboration between the Ministry and representatives of youth interests in 2007. The focus will be on the strengthening of relationships, and facilitating plans for future development initiatives for youth. The discussions will include the provision of financial assistance as necessary, for the improvement of service delivery capacity.

In recognition of the devastating effects of HIV/AIDS and the attendant effects on young people, the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs will continue to conduct youth health caravans in collaboration with other stakeholders. The caravans are aimed at reducing the incidence of HIV/AIDS and providing information to young persons and the general public on HIV/AIDS and other health problems.

In fiscal 2007, the Ministry will collaborate with health-related organizations, such as the Pan American Health Organization and the Family Planning Association, to provide adolescent-friendly health services at three (3) youth facilities. The project is geared towards providing young people with

general information on health issues and would be managed by trained peer support persons.

One (1) new project will be introduced in fiscal 2007 as follows:

- Youth Resources for Implementing Successful Enterprises (Youth RISE)

The main objective of Youth RISE is to encourage young people to develop a business. It will provide twelve (12) "at risk" young persons in the age range 16-25 years with entrepreneurial training, mentoring and financial support. The expected outcome is the development of viable business ventures by participants, thereby leading to improvement in their lives and a capacity to contribute to national development.

## Sport and Recreation

In the area of Sport and Recreation, the revised National Sport Policy concentrates on two (2) dimensions of contemporary Sport: High Performance Sport and Total Contemporary Sport.

The agenda for Sport and Recreation in fiscal 2007 will involve the use of the following principal strategies:

- Promotion of mass participation in Sport and Physical Recreation in schools and communities;
- Provision of information for and about sport and physical education;
- Promotion of drug-free sports;
- Upgrading of standards of discipline and performance in sports;
- Implementation of a scientific approach in the preparation of national athletes;
- Encouraging National Sporting Organizations to adopt a strategic approach to the development of sport and to become self-sufficient;
- Increasing the operational efficiency of all stadia and sporting facilities;
- Increasing the quality and quantity of sport infrastructure;
- Increasing the earning capacity of sporting facilities;
- Creation of an enabling environment for the

- development of high performance athletes; and
- Improvement of the infrastructure and capacity of sporting facilities.

Focus would be placed on preparing Trinidad and Tobago to host the ICC Cricket World Cup W1 in June 2007. This will involve networking between the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs and agencies involved in preparatory activities.

As a follow-up to the debut of the National Senior Football Team at the FIFA World Cup Finals, 2006 the Elite Athlete Policy (EAP) was submitted for Cabinet approval. In anticipation of a positive response by Cabinet, in fiscal 2007 the EAP will provide clarity and direction and support for athletes with highly-ranked performance according to global standards. The Policy will outline guidelines for the disbursement of financial grants to eligible athletes. An average of thirty-five (35) high-performance athletes are estimated to benefit on an annual basis.

Activities that fall under the Ministry's Annual Sport Programmes will continue in 2007. The aim of these programmes is to engage the participation of the national community in a regimen of physical recreation and sport. The Ministry will also continue its maintenance programme of nineteen (19) sport facilities (and eight (8) youth facilities) to ensure that they remain fully functional to satisfy patrons and meet programme delivery needs. In fiscal 2007 the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs will develop policy guidelines to address the use of sport and youth facilities, including the introduction of user fee structures.

### **Regional and Gender Development and Sustainable Communities**

While a number of Ministries are undertaking initiatives which will impact on this action area, the Ministries of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs and Local Government have a key role to play in the achievement of goals in the activity area of regional development and sustainable communities. The Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs is one of the frontline ministries with responsibility for the identification, formulation and implementation of strategies for the achievement of

government's objectives in the critical areas of individual and community empowerment, poverty alleviation, culture and gender equity, and gender justice in Trinidad and Tobago.

In fiscal 2007, Government will continue to address the structural imbalances that threaten gender equality and equity in Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs will actively pursue the finalization of the National Gender Policy, which was approved by Cabinet for development in 2006, and the implementation of projects designed for the accompanying Plan of Action. The Policy articulates Government's goals, objectives and strategies for promoting gender equality, and the Plan of Action identifies specific actions, inclusive of measurable indicators and identifiable actors to mainstream gender issues.

In order to facilitate the implementation of the Policy and Plan of Action, the Ministry will continue to invest in the following projects:

- Public education and awareness programmes;
- Outreach to community gender groups and other civil society agencies, especially in the context of the National Gender Policy and the Convention for the Elimination of all Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW);
- Reconstitution, co-ordination and collaboration with gender and development advisory bodies, the Inter-Ministerial Committee for Gender and Development, and the National Council for Gender and Development (NCGD);
- Projects aimed at gender mainstreaming, including the development of tools and guidelines to assist agencies to conduct gender analysis, gender audits and to include gender considerations in their work;
- Lecture series promoting wider public understanding and sensitivity to gender and development issues;
- Development and application of monitoring and evaluation tools to measure the advancement of gender and development strategies against the baselines and indicators established in the Policy; and

## Sector Plans for 2007

- Continuation of the Defining Masculine Excellence programme, in which a group of men from governmental and non-governmental organizations are trained.

The Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs will remain committed, in fiscal 2007, to the improvement of the social and physical infrastructure of the nation's communities, and the promotion of cultural initiatives and gender equity. Areas of focus for 2007 will include:

- Expansion of human resource development in communities through the provision of employable skills training, community sensitization and education and the Prime Minister's Best Village Competition;
- Improved community centres;
- Institutionalization of a Tracer Study programme to evaluate the impact of the training programmes;
- Establishment of the Community Development Enterprise Window, a service to facilitate new entrepreneurs;
- Improvement in the quality of service delivery to the public through the construction and upgrade of community facilities;
- Strengthening and expansion of the physical infrastructure base in low-income and depressed communities through the Community Enhancement and Rehabilitation Programme (CERP) and the National Social Improvement Programme (NSIP);
- Improved housing through the Minor Repair/Reconstruction Grant;
- Modernization of laws to engender equity and justice on gender issues, with the ongoing review of current legislation in compliance with the CEDAW;
- Social cohesiveness and a sense of nationalism through community programmes, such as the Ana culture (Community Concerts) Programme;
- Safer neighbourhoods and communities through the Community Safety and Enhancement Programme;
- Care and support to the needy through the Geriatric Adolescent programme and the Transformation Development Centres;

- Institutional strengthening within the Ministry and in non-governmental organizations through the provision of training, and technical and financial support;
- Employment facilitation through the establishment of Community Information Documentation and Management centres;
- Strengthening the Planning and Implementation Unit;
- Community empowerment initiatives facilitated through grants to community-based organizations under the Community Action for Revival and Empowerment (CARE) programme;
- Continuation of the Community Awareness and Sensitization Programme;
- Increase in cultural awareness and participation and preservation of cultural heritage;
- Enhancement of the Community Skills Bank;
- Training in marketable skills;
- Continuation of the Entrepreneurial (micro-enterprise) Development/Management Programme; and
- The Community Development Scholarship programme.

The Ministry will also be involved in the hosting of seminars and conferences throughout fiscal 2007. These will include:

- Regional Complexes and Civic Centres Quarterly Conferences;
- Mid-term Performance Review Conference;
- End-of-year Review and Forward Planning Conference; and
- Facilities Management Seminars/Workshops.

In the effort to accomplish the goal of regional development, the Ministry of Local Government will continue to focus in fiscal 2007 on community integration and participation, and efficient service delivery through local government reform. The Draft White Paper on Local Government Reform 2006 will be finalised based on the comments received at the consultations held in the third quarter of fiscal 2006 and it is expected that implementation will commence in fiscal 2007.



The document has twelve main policy objectives, five (5) of which will be given particular attention in the medium term 2007-2010. These include:-

### (1) Financing -

- Establishing a flexible revenue stream that will allow for more realistic programme planning and budget; and
- Establishing value for money and performance budgeting mechanisms.

### (2) Restructuring Boundaries -

- Establishing Local Government boundaries that are consistent with natural geographical configuration, development focus, community integration and facilitating administrative co-ordination and effective service delivery.

### (3) Reviewing Structure -

- Restructure the governance system and structure of the Councils, in keeping with the development focus of the Municipalities and the new decentralization arrangements;
- Restructure the corporation's organizational structure in order to manage effectively, to respond to the needs of the local communities and to facilitate the achievements of corporate goals; and
- Strengthen and improve the corporate institution.

### (4) Decentralisation -

- Roles and functions of the Ministry of Local Government decentralized, where Municipal Corporations will be armed with a larger measure of authority through decentralisation;
- The newly re-activated Decentralization Unit will be charged specifically with the task of facilitating the decentralization process.

### (5) Legislation Reform/Review

- Promotion of a legislative framework that is unambiguous, user friendly and one that facilitates decision making, dispute resolution and policy

formation for local government bodies;

- Review of the byelaws and regulations, in keeping with the revised legislation;
- Make appropriate amendments to the Constitution.

## Labour and Social Security

For the fiscal year 2007, the Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro-Enterprise Development (MLSMED) proposes to continue its pursuit of maximizing the timely creation of employment opportunities for all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, with specific emphasis on decent work. It is expected that the creation of decent work will contribute greatly to a strengthening of the social fabric, and the enhancement of a system of good governance. In order to achieve the goals of 1) sustainable full employment, 2) a favourable industrial relations environment, and 3) the development of a vibrant medium, small, and micro-enterprise sector in fiscal 2007, as articulated in the Vision 2020 Operational Plan, the MLSMED will implement social initiatives that can be categorized according to each of these goals. These initiatives are discussed below within the context of each goal:

### Goal 1: Achievement of sustainable full employment within the framework of decent and safe work in a non-discriminatory and equitable environment

- Establishment of an institutional structure within the MLSMED with particular responsibility for the analysis and dissemination of relevant Labour Market Information

Trinidad and Tobago continues to face the challenges of globalization and attempts at regional and hemispheric integration. The establishment of a specialized Labour Market Information Unit within the Ministry in fiscal 2007 is intended to address the need for policy development in labour-related areas, such as unemployment, with a view to resolving these challenges.

- Development of a comprehensive Employment Policy aimed at achieving full employment status

The creation of full, decent sustainable employment continues to be a priority area for Government in fiscal 2007.

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In order to facilitate the design and implementation of an appropriate framework to resolve the problem of unemployment, the draft Employment Policy written by the National Committee to develop an Employment Policy for Trinidad and Tobago will be finalized in the new fiscal year. A series of public consultations will also be held in 2007 in the effort to finalize the policy.

- Enhancement of employment opportunities through the development of One Stop Career Resource Centres and the provision of a mobile One Stop Career Resource Centre (OSCRC) Service

As an enhancement of the eight (8) existing National Employment Service (NES) Exchanges and to facilitate greater outreach services, the Ministry will introduce a mobile OSCRC in fiscal 2007. One major aim of this new service is the creation of increased accessibility for persons in rural and/or remote communities throughout the country. Persons who access the mobile service will also be able to register on the NES website, thereby increasing their opportunities for employment.

- Promotion and facilitation of the application of the principles of decent work in the work place

As a signatory to the Declaration and Plan of Action of Mar del Plata (2005), Trinidad and Tobago is committed to the creation of decent working conditions for all citizens. In 2007, Government will renew its efforts to develop a national decent work policy that advocates the integration of decent work in the national policy process of all ministries.

- Establishment of adequate and relevant legislative/regulatory and institutional framework for Occupational Safety and Health for the workplace

Following on the Occupational Safety and Health Act No. 1 (2004) and the Occupational Safety and Health (Amendment) Act No. 3 (2006) the MLSMED will engage in the process of establishing the Occupational Safety and Health Authority and Agency in 2007. The services of a Consultant will be contracted to assist with this process.

- Promotion of a non-discriminatory work environment through the development of a National Workplace Policy on HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS has been identified as a workplace issue as it attacks victims during the most productive years of their lives, ages 15 - 30. In fiscal 2007, the MLSMED will continue to work alongside the NACC to develop national workplace policy on HIV/AIDS.

- Promotion of equal pay for equal work

The MLSMED is at times a key actor in wage negotiations in the country. Indeed, the Ministry was instrumental in the increase of the minimum wage from \$8.00 per hour to \$9.00 per hour in 2005. The Ministry proposes in 2007 to develop a mechanism to monitor the impact of the National Minimum Wage and to develop a model that would project its potential impact. The activity will also involve ongoing research to determine the point at which a further adjustment in the national minimum wage level is required.

- Management of Government's regional and international commitments and responsibilities with respect to the labour market agenda, in particular, the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour and the International Labour Organization

The MLSMED continues to hold responsibility for ensuring that Trinidad and Tobago fulfils its commitments to regional and international organizations, such as the International Labour Organization (ILO), the Organization of American States (OAS) and CARICOM. The Ministry will engage in the establishment of an International Unit to coordinate the responsibilities of the government with respect to its membership of these organizations, in particular, the implementation of mechanisms to protect workers in the changing labour market. Trinidad and Tobago was elected to the Chair of the Fifteenth Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Labour. As a result, the country has been elected to host and chair the September 2007 meeting.

The MLSMED will be responsible for drafting the Declaration

and Plan of Action for this meeting, which will be used to guide the work of the Inter-American Conference of Ministers of Health over the period 2007 – 2009.

### **Goal 2: Creation of a favourable Industrial Relations Environment, based on freedom of collective bargaining, tripartism, appropriate legal protection, timely dispute resolution and mutual respect**

- Promotion of industrial peace in the national economy through effective conciliation processes, social dialogue and ongoing mechanisms for non-crisis intervention

The government of Trinidad and Tobago is mindful of the need for social dialogue in order to fulfil the objectives of the Vision 2020 Operational Plan. In fiscal 2007, the MLSMED will continue to strengthen existing institutions, as well as promote the use of social dialogue machinery in national social and economic decision-making on employment relations. It is also expected that the physical upgrade of the Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies will be completed during fiscal 2007, and that the institution would be further developed as the primary provider of labour education in Trinidad and Tobago and the CARICOM region.

### **Goal 3: The encouragement and development of a vibrant Medium, Small and Micro-Enterprise (MSME) Sector**

The importance of the small and micro-enterprise sector in employment creation and poverty reduction has been noted by government and has resulted in the establishment of an Enterprise Development Division at the MLSMED and the National Entrepreneurship Development Company (NEDCO). Government has also acknowledged the significant contribution of female owned businesses to social and economic development. In fiscal 2007 therefore, the MLSMED, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and NEDCO, will host an international conference on the theme “Enabling the Enterprise Revolution: Developing and Encouraging Women’s Enterprise and Entrepreneurship.”

- Promotion and facilitation of the development of the non-financial Co-operative sector as viable business enterprises

The MLSMED proposes to undertake various initiatives during fiscal 2007 to enhance and develop non-financial Co-operatives. This would include continued investment in the pilot project for the rehabilitation and expansion of the aquaculture facilities of the Point Coco Agricultural Co-operative Society Limited. Similar projects that target other types of non-financial Co-operatives are also planned for 2007.

- Promotion and facilitation of the development of the Friendly Societies movement as a vehicle for wealth creation and poverty reduction

Government is committed in 2007 to the continued development of Friendly Societies which are community –based organizations that promote the principles of thrift, as well as that of brotherhood and civic harmony. They also offer financial services in the form of grants and soft loans, which assist in reducing poverty and helping individuals in times of distress. In 2007, Government will invest in the institutional strengthening of Friendly Societies throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

## **Social Security**

In fiscal 2007, Government will remain focused on strengthening and extending existing systems of social protection given the ever-changing demographic structure of Trinidad and Tobago. The demographic changes include:

- Increases in longevity;
- Declining rates of fertility;
- An increasing population of elderly persons; and
- Changes in family structure that tend to reduce intra-family support for retired members.

It is noted that major economic and social problems can arise as a result of the ageing of the population. Moreover, it would appear that these problems are inevitable, as

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population projections from the Vision 2020 sub-committee on Population and Development estimate life expectancies of 69.6 years and 75.4 years, for males and females respectively. These projections would imply an increase of 10% in the population of working age persons and an increase of 90% in the population of persons aged 60 years and over. The improvement of the social security system is therefore proposed as a necessary step for addressing some of the social problems that are faced by an ageing society.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, through the National Insurance Board (NIBTT), is committed to providing social security for all citizens, inclusive of the delivery of timely benefit payments to all beneficiaries. For the new fiscal year 2007, the completion of the 7th Actuarial Review is paramount as it will be used to prepare a report on the solvency and financial condition of the National Insurance System, as well as an analysis of the potential effects of changes to the current structure of benefits. The recommendations of this Review will be used to gauge the sustainability of the NIS, with particular reference to long-term finance. In addition, the focus will be on the affordability of contributions and the enhancement of benefit levels to maintain the relevance and volume of the entire package of benefits.

As an extension to the review of the NIS, the National Insurance Board will conduct a feasibility study on the possibility of extending social security coverage to self-employed persons. This aspect of coverage is seen as being necessary, as an estimated 18% of the labour force is self-employed and would therefore be excluded from social security coverage. As a result, in fiscal 2007, it is expected that the findings of the 7th Actuarial Review will be useful in determining whether the NIS is operating on a sound financial basis. The findings would also be important in the process of designing a more effective and efficient system of social protection.

During the latter half of fiscal 2007, the NIBTT will seek to implement the recommendations of the 7th Actuarial Review. The process will involve adjustment and modifications that will include changes in organizational structure, procedures and information technology systems. In addition, a programme

of training for the development of human resources will be conducted to strengthen the institutional capacity of the social security system.

In fiscal 2007, the Revision Reform Committee will also continue its work towards development of a detailed reformed Pension System for Trinidad and Tobago, including harmonization of the National Insurance Systems Retirement Pension Benefits and the Old Age Pension (OAP), and the development of an appropriate integrated Regulatory Framework for the Pension Industry. It is proposed that two consultancies will be undertaken to move the work programme of the Committee forward. A number of activities will also be undertaken by the Social Welfare Division of the Ministry of Social Development to enhance and improve the delivery of the Old Age Pension Grant.

## Housing

The need for secure housing has been established as a basic need of all citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, and as an essential feature of human development. In fiscal 2007, the Ministry of Housing will maintain its major policy objective of providing affordable and adequate housing for all persons who are in need.

In the process of fulfilling this policy objective, the Ministry, through the Housing Development Corporation (HDC), will continue to implement its Accelerated Housing Programme in fiscal 2007 via the Infill Lots, the Joint Venture and the Urban Renewal Programmes. Overall, it is expected that 8,000 housing solutions would be constructed in the effort to meet the demand for housing in the country. The Ministry will also continue to utilize a range of small, medium and large contractors, in the effort to provide employment opportunities for small contracting businesses.

The Ministry of Housing will intensify its Urban Renewal Programme in fiscal 2007. The programme is aimed at addressing problems in the urban centres through the provision of improved services and infrastructure. It is expected that re-development will address the physical,

social, economic, and recreational and community needs of existing and future resident populations, as well as those of potential visitors.

In keeping with Government's goal to provide affordable housing in sustainable communities, the Ministry will introduce the New Town Programme in 2007. This programme aims to develop sustainable and affordable housing communities on greenfield sites, with one such location being proposed for the vicinity of the new Technology Park and the University of Trinidad and Tobago campus at Wallerfield. The HDC proposes to engage in the planning and design of similar developments over fiscal 2007, in Couva, La Brea and Princes Town.

As the Ministry seeks to widen the range of housing alternatives available to poorer, marginalized and/or disadvantaged groups in society in fiscal 2007, it will be expanding the Rent-to-Own programme. The programme targets low-income and middle income individuals who are financially unable to service a mortgage. The intention is to afford persons the opportunity of achieving their long term goal of acquiring a home.

In fiscal 2007 under, the Family Subsidy for New Homes component of the IADB Loan Programme, an up-front housing subsidy will be made available to eligible applicants. An estimated 1,250 persons are expected to benefit by the end of the fiscal year, with a target of approximately 500 persons receiving subsidies by December 2007.

While the Ministry of Housing is actively engaged in housing construction, it is aware of the need to maintain the existing housing stock. It also recognizes that some persons are in need of financial assistance to refurbish their homes. During fiscal 2007, the Ministry will continue to administer the Home Improvement Subsidy and the Home Improvement Grant to assist persons to undertake home repairs that will bring their homes to acceptable standards. It is expected that a total of 1,100 persons will benefit from the Home Improvement Subsidy in 2007, and that 2,500 persons will receive Home Improvement Grants.

In the new fiscal year, the Land Settlement Agency (LSA) will continue to invest in improving the living conditions and regularizing the security of tenure for families living in squatter settlements. This process will include the provision of basic amenities and formal documents of tenure to the families. Construction activities are expected to be completed in eight (8) second cycle sites in 2007, and an estimated 2,400 are to be regularized by the end of the fiscal year. In addition, a proposed 3,600 applications, out of a total of 22,732 applications for Certificates of Comfort received by the LSA, will be processed in 2006/2007. In order to facilitate the process of regularization, the LSA will also continue to analyze the preliminary reports of social surveys conducted during the previous fiscal year.

Another area of focus for the Ministry of Housing in the new fiscal year will be the completion of construction work on Multi-Purpose Complexes at Bon Air, Couva and Edinburgh 500. An additional four (4) complexes are proposed for construction in 2007 at Rushworth Street, Buen Intention, Strikers Village –Point Fortin and Sangre Grande. Each Multi-Complex is designed to encourage a mixed range of activities to enhance the surrounding community and minimize the construction of unplanned structures built by residents to conduct small business activities

Following on the first Housing Colloquium, which was hosted by the Ministry of Housing in 2006, the Ministry is proposing that a Housing Colloquium be hosted every two (2) years. The Ministry will therefore engage in the establishment of a Steering Committee, comprising representatives from Caribbean nations, to oversee the hosting of the Housing Colloquium. The Colloquium will provide a forum for dissemination of information, expertise and experience on critical housing issues, such as, affordability, financing for low-income housing, urban regeneration, housing construction standards, squatter regularization and private sector participation in housing.

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### Poverty Alleviation and Social Services

In fiscal 2007 the Ministry of Social Development will continue to focus on initiatives to reduce poverty and to contribute to a more secure and equitable society. Emphasis would be placed on improving the delivery of social services through decentralization and monitoring and evaluating social programmes to ensure effectiveness and efficiency. Programming would be tailored to address particularly vulnerable groups such as children in need of special protection, the socially displaced, drug abusers, persons with disabilities and individuals and households under the poverty line. Focus would be given to the creation of effective partnerships for development through collaboration with civil society and private sector organizations in the implementation of social sector development objectives.

In the fiscal 2007 framework there is a movement away from the traditional social welfare approach, to one that is more developmental and participatory, in order to create a more enabling environment for social development. With the support of international development partners, a comprehensive audit of the social safety net will be undertaken to determine areas for improvement.

In the new fiscal year, 2007, policy design and programme implementation will centre on the following policy objectives:

- Implementation of a system of delivery at the community level, designed to ensure that a full range of relevant social services are accessible to persons in need of such services, especially those in remote areas, through the decentralization of social services. Activities would include:
  - Refinement and implementation of a framework for decentralisation of the social services delivery system by a decentralization expert and supporting staff who will be recruited for this purpose;

- Establishment of two (2) new social service centres;
- Conduct of sensitization workshops for NGOs/CBOs/FBOs;
- Strengthening of Regional Social and Human Development Councils, Project Implementation Units and regional Civil Society Networks, structures established under the EU-Sponsored Poverty Reduction Programme; and
- Implementation of social sector Community Outreach Caravans in selected communities;
- Update of the Social Sector Portal, which is an interactive website to providing information, among other things, on government and NGO Programmes and services;
- Implementation of the Community on the Move Anti-Drug Strategy;
- Development of a policy on NGO/ Government/Private Sector Partnerships for Development.

- The utilization of cutting edge information systems to drive and support the core processes of the Ministry and to improve data collection mechanisms, track clients progress and to eliminate abuse within the system. The Social Welfare Division and the Conditional Cash Transfer Programme Unit will be the first two Divisions targeted for implementation of this activity;
- Increasing the war against the abuse of legal drugs and use and abuse of illegal substances through the implementation of a National Public Education Programme, in order to mobilize greater community support and participation. Specific activities for fiscal 2007 include:-
  - Implementation of a School Prevention Programme;



- Implementation of a Workplace Prevention Programme.
- Social integration and social inclusion of marginalized and vulnerable groups through:
  - Implementation of a Public Awareness Campaign on the National Policy on Persons with Disabilities, and sensitization workshops on the said policy;
  - Training of additional Personal Assistants for Persons with Disabilities;
  - Establishment of a Standard Sign Language for Trinidad and Tobago;
  - Implementation of Public Sensitization Programmes on socially displaced persons;
  - Construction of community-based facilities for socially displaced persons;
  - Relocation of socially displaced older persons to suitable community-based facilities;
  - Provision of support services for ex-prisoners and deportees;
  - Provision of social support services for older persons such as Senior Centres and a Meals-on-Wheels Programme; and
  - Development of a National Plan of Action on Ageing
- Monitoring the implementation of Regional and International Conventions/Agreements pertaining to the social sector;
- Poverty alleviation through the development and implementation of a poverty reduction strategy that includes a structured approach for the measurement of poverty on a regular basis, to enable proper targeting of programmes and assessment of progress. Activities include the:
  - Conduct of an Assessment of Social Sector Spending and Poverty Reduction Efforts;
  - Conduct of Social Safety Net Assessment;
  - Utilization of the results of the Survey of Living Conditions to design focused poverty alleviation plans for communities with a high incidence of poverty;
  - Enhancement of the Old Age Pension Programme;
  - Expansion of the Conditional Cost Transfer Programme to include additional vulnerable groups and individuals who meet the criteria for participation in the Programme;
- Implementation of the Monitoring and Evaluation Policy to ensure that programmes and projects in the Social Sector are achieving established objectives. A major initiative for fiscal 2007 will be the establishment of a Special Task Force to oversee this activity;
- Conducting research and needs assessment pertaining to vulnerable and at-risk groups to inform decision-making and to enable policy and programming which is research-based. This will include the following:
  - Conduct of a Study on the Status of Males in Society;
  - Conduct of a survey on Child Victimization;
  - Conduct of a survey of Addicts in Treatment and Rehabilitation Centres;
  - An enquiry into the status of children on whose behalf public assistance is paid;
  - Completion of the Survey on Living Conditions;
- Strengthening the support systems for Children and Families through the:
  - Implementation of a National Policy on the Family;
  - The finalization and implementation of a National Parenting Programme;
  - The implementation of a National Counselling Programme;
  - The establishment of a Children's Authority; and
  - The implementation of the Revised National Plan of Action for Children.

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### Tobago

The Budget Statement for financial year 2007 for the Tobago House of Assembly was presented on Monday, June 26, 2006.

The theme of the presentation was "Tobago in Transition: On a Platform for Sustainable Development" with the following objectives:

- To build on the achievements of the past;
- To improve on the economic and social circumstances of all Tobagonians; and
- To expand the future prospects of all Tobagonians.<sup>58</sup>

The key objectives of the various socio-economic development frameworks designed for guiding Tobago's efforts at addressing the country's developmental challenges and are summarized as follows:

- Improving infrastructural development in key areas like: roads and transport, water, the telecommunication and communications infrastructure as well as social infrastructure;
- Improving health, education and other social services;
- Promoting sustainable economic growth; and
- Ensuring food security, and sustainable environmental management.

New programmes have been planned for implementation in fiscal 2007, which will foster social inclusion and a better quality of life. Some of the major initiatives which will be undertaken in the social sector during fiscal 2007 are as follows:

- Continuation of the Car Wash for Recovering Addicts Programme to encourage the rehabilitation of drug addicts;
- Establishment of a Roving Care Giver Programme which will ensure informal early childhood education and parental support, for infants from birth to three (3) years old;
- Establishment of Senior Citizens Centres;

- Establishment of Mediation Centres at two (2) locations on the island. This would provide a more effective method of conflict resolution within communities, resulting in a stronger more united society;
- The Division of Community Development and Culture would implement three (3) new projects:
  - Boyz II Men ( a programme designed to increase self-esteem in males and to decrease anti-social behaviour);
  - Community School for the Performing Arts
  - Steel Pan for Primary Schools;
- Establishment of a Branch of the Central Statistical Office;
- The Construction of a New University of Trinidad and Tobago Campus in Buccoo;
- Institutional strengthening and Capacity Building at the Scarborough Hospital;
- Introduction of an education programme in consultation with TUTTA, to assist students, by making DVDs of as many subjects as possible, available free of charge to students;
- The upgrading of libraries in all primary and secondary schools;
- Expansion of the school building improvement and expansion programme at the primary and secondary school levels;
- Continued implementation of the HIV/AIDS Programme; and
- Extension and Improvement of Early Childhood Centres.

58 THA Budget Statement 2007



**Appendices**



## Appendix I: Progress towards achievement of the MDGs in the Caribbean

Goal	Regional Status
I Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<p>There is still unevenness among the various countries as it relates to poverty, despite the fact that a number of countries of the region have achieved a high Human Development Index rating. It is especially urgent to reduce extreme poverty in Haiti, where over 50% of the population lives below the extreme poverty line. The issue of income inequality also needs to be addressed.</p>
II Ensure that by 2015, children will complete	<p>Caribbean countries have already achieved relatively high levels of primary education coverage with net enrolment rates of over 90%; However, the percentage of children who actually complete primary schooling is much lower.</p> <p>There is need for teachers to better design programmes that could reduce the drop-out rates of boys and encourage fathers to participate in the education of their children. The Caribbean does not show any significant lag with regard to gender equality in the access to primary education.</p> <p>At the High Level Follow-up meeting to the UN. General Assembly 60th Session 2005 World Summit, the view was expressed however that enhancing the quality of the education being received was an essential component of Caribbean Development. It was agreed that taking cognizance of the gender differences within the education system brought about by socialization could reduce the drop-out rates of boys and improve the performance in the school system</p>
III Promote Gender Equality and empower women	<p>The gender wage gap narrowed from 25% to 17% on average in the last decade. Close to 60% of women are enrolled at the secondary level and 19% at the tertiary level: for men these figures are 54% and 17% respectively. Women have experienced tremendous gains with regard to their participation in the labour force. Such increases are not only attributed to social movements that have stimulated greater gender equity in social relations, but to improvements in the education system.</p>
IV Reduce by two- thirds , between 1990 and 2015 , the under –five mortality rate	<p>No country within the Caribbean falls within the high category of Under Five mortality rates, however the infant and child mortality rate was reduced from 30% to 16% respectively and the region is on track to meet this target. However the rate of children dying from drowning and assault is on the increase.</p>
V Reduce Maternal Mortality	<p>The Caribbean has a lower maternal mortality ratio than other developing countries, but pregnancy and childbirth –related deaths are still a serious public health problem.</p>
VI Detain and Reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	<p>The prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the adult population is higher in the Caribbean than in any other region in the world except sub-</p>

## APPENDIX I: Progress towards achievement of the MDGs in the Caribbean

<p>VI Detain and Reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases</p>	<p>Saharan Africa. Haiti has the region's highest rate ( 5.6%) followed by four other countries with rates above 2% - Trinidad and Tobago, The Bahamas, Guyana and Belize.</p> <p>The primary mode of transmission is sexual (76 per cent). Sexual transmission of HIV is however no longer predominantly via male homosexuals, but through a combination of homosexual, bisexual and heterosexual sexual activities, with heterosexual transmission accounting for 65 per cent of HIV transmission in the Caribbean. The social stigma associated with homosexuality also means that there will continue to be underreporting of AIDS cases among this group</p> <p>Data also show that AIDS is now the leading cause of death among males and females aged 15 to 45 years in the Caribbean, and that the epidemic is one that now essentially impacts on youth. The 15-24 age group and specifically female 15-24 year olds are most vulnerable. This is evidenced by data which show that although there is a higher rate of AIDS cases among males (a ratio of 2:1), the incidence of AIDS among females in the 15-24 year old age group is three to six times higher than that of males in the same age group.</p> <p>With respect to Malaria, the highest risk of transmission occurs in the sub-region of French Guiana, Guyana and Suriname. While numerous attempts have been made to attenuate the problem with anti-malarial drugs, such drugs are expensive to produce and the malaria parasite quickly develops a resistance to them.</p>
<p>VII Environmental sustainability</p> <p>VII Environmental sustainability</p>	<p>Deforestation due primarily the conversion of forests to agricultural land or for new housing developments continues at an alarmingly rate.</p> <p>The target for drinking water coverage in rural areas has already been reached by Barbados, St. Kitts,-Nevis and St. Lucia. Caribbean countries have virtually met the urban sanitation target; however there still problems of inadequate housing, as slum populations continue to rise.</p> <p>In addition, it is important for the region to integrate environmental issues into their sectoral policies and to develop markets for the local and global environmental services provided by its ecosystems, to expand their role beyond that of supplying raw materials.</p>
<p>VIII Global partnership for development</p>	<p>Significant progress has been made in this area, but it is recognized that the Caribbean Region as a whole must promote regional inclusion through economic integration, as envisioned by the CSME.</p>

Source: Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Inter-American Development Bank 2004- Report on Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Caribbean.

## Appendix II: Economic Losses Due to Natural Events in the Caribbean 2004 (ECLAC)

Island/State	Natural Event	Economic Impact, US\$ million	Impact as % of GDP
Grenada	Hurricane Ivan	889	212
Jamaica	Hurricane Ivan	595	8
Dominican Republic	Tropical Storm Jeanne	296	2
Bahamas	Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne	551	11
Cayman Islands	Hurricane Ivan	3432	183
Dominica	Earthquake	46	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>5,809</b>	<b>433</b>

Source: "Presentation at the High-Level Ministerial Dialogue on Social Security and Sustainable Development in the Caribbean" ECLAC 2006

## Appendix III: Sectoral Distribution of the Impact of Natural Disasters on Four Selected Caribbean SIDS (Sept. 2004)

Country	Impact on Productive Sectors in US\$M	Impact on Infrastructure in US\$M	Impact on social sectors in US\$M	Impact of social sector as % of total socio-economic impact	Total Socio-economic impact US\$M	Impact of Disaster as % of GDP
Cayman Islands	117.7	488.4	1810.3	53%	3416.4	138.0
Grenada	539.2	262.4	1588	66%	2389.6	212.0
Jamaica	215.7	12.7	220.7	40%	549.1	8.0
Haiti	83.3	33.9	125.8	52%	243.0	4.5

Source: "Presentation at the High-Level Ministerial Dialogue on Social Security and Sustainable Development in the Caribbean" ECLAC 2006



## Appendix IV: Social Development Framework for Advancing the Social and Sustainable Development of Caribbean SIDS

Policy Areas	Recommended Approach	Supporting Regional Partners
<b>Sustaining Investment in Human Capital</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Strengthen cohesion in poverty reduction programming.</li> <li>II. Enable the informal sector.</li> <li>III. Ensure quality education and skills training are available.</li> <li>IV. Embark on public education programmes to communicate the social concerns of communicable and non-communicable diseases, particularly the impact on productivity and economic and social costs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CDB</li> <li>CARICOM</li> <li>OECS</li> <li>ILO</li> <li>DFID</li> <li>UNDP</li> <li>UWI</li> </ul>
<b>Redesigning Social Integration and Inclusion Policies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Address the causes and consequences of crime and violence;</li> <li>II. Deepen the thrust for gender equity and equality;</li> <li>III. Reduce inequality and promote social justice;</li> <li>IV. Reduce stigma to HIV/AIDS, increasing prevention, treatment and care;</li> <li>V. Ensure social provisioning for deportees;</li> <li>VI. Provide support for the Kingston Accord which supports the promotion of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities;</li> <li>VII. Address issues of youth development</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CARICOM</li> <li>OECS</li> <li>ECLAC</li> <li>UNDP</li> <li>UNIFEM</li> <li>UWI</li> <li>UNAIDS</li> </ul>
<b>Extending social protection and compensation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Seek to reduce the proportion of children living in poverty;</li> <li>II. Reduce risks to natural disasters;</li> <li>III. Extend coverage of social security to include the self employed and those in the informal sector;</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>CARICOM</li> <li>OECS</li> <li>CDERA</li> <li>UNICEF</li> </ul>
<b>Extending social protection and compensation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>IV. Consider the use of mobile national insurance offices to increase coverage;</li> <li>V. Reform public health systems to increase quality, efficiency and availability.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECLAC</li> <li>UNDP</li> <li>PAHO/WHO</li> </ul>

## Appendix IV: Social Development Framework for Advancing the Social and Sustainable Development of Caribbean SIDS

Policy Areas	Recommended Approach	Supporting Regional Partners
Ensuring evidenced-base social protection and provisioning	I. Collect household data on regular basis to assess how households address poverty, vulnerability and the effectiveness of social protection instruments;	CDB CARICOM
	II. Collect labour market data on a regular basis, including information on skills;	OECS ILO
	III. Engage in social impact assessments of poverty initiatives;	ECLAC
	IV. Develop strong, transparent and effective monitoring and evaluation tools for social protection initiatives;	DFID UNDP
	V. Support policy analysis and research.	
Strengthening the enabling environment	I. Introduce Policy Analysis units in ministries with responsibility for social development;	CARICOM OECS
	II. Strengthening the capacity of Ministries with responsibility for social development through examination of internal structures and functioning and ensure best use of personnel attached;	ECLAC UNDP
	III. Share best practices of Management of Social Development Programming within and across the sub region;	
	IV. Review legislation (with a view to regional harmonization) that address social protection, in light of the free movement of persons in the CSME	

Source - Report of the High-Level Ministerial Dialogue -Social Development Framework for advancing the social and sustainable development of Caribbean SIDS (Annex 1) ECLAC, July 2006

## Appendix V: List of Non-Governmental Organizations receiving Government Subventions 2005 & 2006

Organization	Subventions Payable at 2005	Subventions Payable at 2006	Difference in Subventions Payable in 2005 to 2006
<b>Ministry of Education</b>			
Servol Adolescent Development Training Programme	\$9,702,000	\$7,902,000	-\$1,800,000
Servol Junior Life Centre	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	-
Trinidad & Tobago National Council of Parent/Teachers Association	\$150,000	\$150,000	-
<b>Ministry of Education's Total Subventions</b>	<b>\$11,202,000</b>	<b>\$9,402,000</b>	<b>-\$1,800,000</b>
<b>Office of the Prime Minister</b>			
<b>Ecclesiastical Grants</b>			
Anglican Church of Trinidad & Tobago	\$51,576	\$51,576	-
Association of Jehovah Witnesses	\$4,808	\$4,808	-
Baptist (Orthodox)	\$16,940	\$16,940	-
Church of God	\$3,225	\$3,225	-
Divine Life Society	\$2,132	\$2,132	-
Ethiopian Orthodox Church	\$488	\$488	-
Hindu Religious Bodies:	\$71,109	\$71,109	-
Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha			
Vishwa Hindu Parishad			
Kabir Panth Association			
Arya Pratinidhi Sabha			
Shiva Dharma Sabha			
Independent Baptist Missionary Union	\$4,418	\$4,418	-
Methodist Church of Trinidad & Tobago	\$10,148	\$10,148	-
Moravian Church of Trinidad & Tobago	\$3,589	\$3,589	-
Muslim Religious Bodies:	\$40,328	\$40,328	-
Trustees Muslim League Incorporated			
Anjuman Sunnatul Jamaat Association			
Tackveeyatul Islamic Association			
National Evangelical Spiritual Baptist	\$13,246	\$13,246	-
Pentecostal Assemblies of the West Indies	\$25,080	\$25,080	-
Presbyterian Church of Trinidad & Tobago	\$26,440	\$26,440	-
Roman Catholic Church	\$115,724	\$115,724	-
South Caribbean Conference Seventh Day Adventist	\$17,608	\$17,608	-
Stewards Christian Brethren Ltd.	\$896	\$896	-
West Indies Spiritual Sacred Order	\$4,410	\$4,410	-
<b>Office of the Prime Minister's Total Subventions</b>	<b>\$412,165</b>	<b>\$412,165</b>	<b>-</b>

## Appendix V: List of Non-Governmental Organizations receiving Government Subventions 2005 & 2006

Organization	Subventions Payable at 2005	Subventions Payable at 2006	Difference in Subventions Payable in 2005 to 2006
<b>Ministry of Social Development</b>			
<b>Services for Persons with Disabilities</b>			
Cheshire Foundation Home	\$600,000	\$600,000	-
Goodwill Industries	\$450,000	\$450,000	-
National Centre for Persons with Disabilities	\$520,000	\$799,360	\$279,360
Swantson Home for Blind Lads	\$500	\$500	-
T&T Association for Hearing Impaired	\$4,047,030	\$4,316,000	\$268,970
T&T Blind Welfare Association	\$6,502,970	\$9,114,000	\$2,611,030
Trinidad & Tobago Chapter of Disabled People International	\$68,750	\$133,200	\$64,450
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$12,189,250</b>	<b>\$15,413,060</b>	<b>\$3,223,810</b>
<b>Children's Homes</b>			
Ark of the Covenant Children's Home	\$85,612	\$85,612	-
Credo Aylward House	\$150,018	\$150,018	-
Credo Drop In Centre	\$289,360	\$391,123	\$101,763
Cyril Ross Nursery	\$120,000	\$120,000	-
Emmanuel Community	\$30,000	\$30,000	-
Ferndean's Place Children's Home	\$40,000	\$40,000	-
Islamic Home for Children	\$40,000	\$40,000	-
Jaya Lakshmi Home	\$60,000	\$60,000	-
Philip's Children's Home and Nursery School	\$149,650	\$149,650	-
Rainbow Rescue	\$242,252	\$242,252	-
Sophia House	\$191,600	\$192,855	\$1,255
South Social Workers Task Force	\$40,000	\$40,000	-
St. Dominic's Children's Home	\$8,000,000	\$8,500,000	\$500,000
St. Mary's Children's Home	\$8,500,000	\$9,000,000	\$500,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$17,938,492</b>	<b>\$19,041,510</b>	<b>\$1,103,018</b>
<b>Industrial Schools</b>			
St. Michael's School for Boys	\$5,700,000	\$6,500,000	\$800,000
St. Jude's School for Girls	\$4,400,000	\$4,500,000	\$100,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$10,100,000</b>	<b>\$11,000,000</b>	<b>\$900,000</b>
<b>Socially Displaced</b>			
Audrey Mollineau Halfway House	\$210,312	\$210,312	-
Centre for Socially Displaced Persons	\$532,753	\$250,000	-\$282,753
Court Shamrock Centre for the Socially Displaced	\$250,000	\$250,000	-
Halfway House for Psychiatric Females	\$363,069	\$363,069	-

## Appendix V: List of Non-Governmental Organizations receiving Government Subventions 2005 & 2006

Organization	Subventions Payable at 2005	Subventions Payable at 2006	Difference in Subventions Payable in 2005 to 2006
St Vincent De Paul Society for Riverside Plaza Assessment Centre	\$1,590,100	\$1,590,100	-
St Vincent De Paul Society Nazareth Halfway House	\$147,600	\$147,600	-
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$3,093,834</b>	<b>\$2,811,081</b>	<b>-\$282,753</b>
<b>Family Life and Counseling Service</b>			
Child Welfare League of Trinidad and Tobago	\$698,548	\$698,548	-
Coterie of Social Workers	\$20,900	\$20,900	-
Families in Action	\$100,000	\$100,000	-
Family Planning Association	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	-
Lifeline	\$46,000	\$184,000	-
Pethererton Trust for Girls & Young Women	-	\$1,380,071	\$1,380,071
Rape Crisis Centre	\$66,000	\$66,000	-
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$1,931,448</b>	<b>\$3,449,519</b>	<b>\$1,518,071</b>
<b>General</b>			
A.S.J.A Islamic Community Services	\$48,000	\$48,000	-
International Committee for Red Cross	\$10,000	\$10,000	-
Nursery Association	\$66,000	\$66,000	-
Social Establishment for the Welfare of All (SEWA)	\$35,000	\$35,000	-
Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals	\$35,000	\$35,000	-
St. John's Ambulance Association & Brigade of T&T	\$14,000	\$14,000	-
T&T Legion of British Commonwealth Services	\$15,000	\$15,000	-
T&T Red Cross Society Emergency	\$20,000	\$20,000	-
Vision on a Mission	-	\$526,359	\$526,359
Young Men's Christian Association	\$81,600	\$81,600	-
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$324,600</b>	<b>\$850,959</b>	<b>\$526,359</b>
<b>Substance Abuse Rehabilitation Centres</b>			
HEAL	\$45,246	\$45,246	-
Hope Centre	\$25,000	\$25,000	-
Rebirth House	\$78,800	\$78,800	-
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$149,046</b>	<b>\$149,046</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Homes for Senior Citizens</b>			
Chaguanas Senior Citizens Home	\$19,567	\$19,567	-
Couva Home for the Aged	\$19,764	\$19,764	-
J C Mc Donald Home for the Aged	\$27,336	\$27,336	-

## Appendix V: List of Non-Governmental Organizations receiving Government Subventions 2005 & 2006

Organization	Subventions Payable at 2005	Subventions Payable at 2006	Difference in Subventions Payable in 2005 to 2006
La Brea Senior Citizens Home	\$19,828	\$19,828	-
Mayaro Home for the Aged	\$15,394	\$15,394	-
Point Fortin Senior Citizens Association	\$22,440	\$22,440	-
Sangre Grande Home for the Aged	\$21,144	\$21,144	-
Siparia Home for the Aged	\$21,292	\$21,292	-
Toco Home for Senior Citizens	\$16,544	\$16,544	-
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$183,309</b>	<b>\$183,309</b>	-
<b>Hostels/Halfway Houses</b>			
Business and Professional Women's Club	\$65,000	\$65,000	-
Salvation Army Geddes Grant Hostel	\$20,928	\$20,928	-
Shelter for Women and Children	\$90,000	\$90,000	-
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$175,928</b>	<b>\$175,928</b>	-
<b>Medical Services</b>			
Chest and Heart Association	\$12,300	\$12,300	-
International Organisation for Health Care t & Human Developmen	\$115,000	\$115,000	-
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$127,300</b>	<b>\$127,300</b>	-
<b>Educational and Employment Services</b>			
Servol	\$37,700	\$37,700	-
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>\$37,700</b>	<b>\$37,700</b>	-
<b>Ministry of Social Development's Total Subventions</b>	<b>\$46,250,907</b>	<b>\$53,239,412</b>	<b>\$6,988,505</b>
<b>Ministry of Health</b>			
Aidsline - National AIDS Hotline	\$181,830	\$181,830	-
Catholic Marriage Advisory Council	\$18,000	\$18,000	-
Cheshire Homes	\$50,000	\$50,000	-
Christ Child Convalescent Home	\$613,000	\$613,000	-
Diabetes Association of Trinidad and Tobago	\$100,000	\$100,000	-
Friends of the Blood Bank	\$320,000	\$100,000	-\$220,000
Informative Breast Feeding Service	\$5,000	\$5,000	-
John Hayes Memorial Kidney Foundation	\$30,000	\$30,000	-
Living Water Community	\$780,000	\$480,000	-\$300,000
Lupus Society of Trinidad and Tobago	\$10,500	\$10,500	-
New Life Ministries	\$480,000	\$590,000	-
Pharmacy of Medical Sciences Department	\$30,000	\$30,000	-



## Appendix V: List of Non-Governmental Organizations receiving Government Subventions 2005 & 2006

Organization	Subventions Payable at 2005	Subventions Payable at 2006	Difference in Subventions Payable in 2005 to 2006
Princess Elizabeth Home for Handicapped Children Association	\$5,466,490	\$6,363,969	\$897,479
South Cancer Support Society	\$100,000	\$100,000	-
T&T National Association for Down's Syndrome	\$50,000	-	\$50,000
Trinidad and Tobago Association for Retarded Children	\$7,877,260	\$8,616,603	\$739,343
Trinidad and Tobago Association of Mental Health	\$10,000	\$10,000	-
Trinidad and Tobago Cancer Society	\$158,500	\$158,500	-
Trinidad and Tobago Leprosy Relief Association	\$180,000	\$180,000	-
Trinidad and Tobago National Council on Alcoholism	\$66,000	\$66,000	-
<b>Ministry of Health's Total Subventions</b>	<b>\$16,526,580</b>	<b>\$17,703,402</b>	<b>\$1,066,822</b>
<b>Ministry of Sports &amp; Youth Affairs</b>			
All Fours Association	-	\$1,035	\$1,035
All Sport Promotion	-	\$75,000	\$75,000
Amateur Swimming Association of Trinidad and Tobago	-	\$10,400	\$10,400
Black Hawk	\$12,000	-	\$12,000
Cricket Olympic Council	-	-	-
Disabled Swimmers	-	\$6,576	\$6,576
Distance Running Events & Associated Management (DREAM)	\$6,757	-	\$6,757
Elite Athletes Programme	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	-
Girl Guides Association of Trinidad and Tobago	\$84,000	\$84,000	-
International Federation of Bodybuilding	-	\$10,206	\$10,206
Junior Karate	-	\$8,250	\$8,250
Masters Athletics Association	-	\$139,029	\$139,029
Model Car Association of Trinidad and Tobago	-	\$27,878	\$27,878
National Amateur Athletic Association of Trinidad & Tobago	\$4,259,131	\$1,543,288	-\$2,715,848
National Basketball Federation of Trinidad and Tobago	\$353,196	\$28,472	-\$324,724
National Kickboxing Council of Trinidad and Tobago	-	\$53,044	\$53,044
Northern Football Association Rugby Players Club	-	\$4,109	\$4,109
Presidents Award Scheme of Trinidad and Tobago	\$60,000	\$60,000	-
Salvation Army	\$345	-	\$345
San Fernando District Scout Council	\$500,000	-	\$500,000
Scouts Association of Trinidad and Tobago	\$126,000	\$126,000	-
Senior Men's Cricket Association	-	\$475,000	\$475,000
Shaolin Temple of Trinidad and Tobago	-	\$20,000	\$20,000
Shotokan Karate Do International Federation	-	\$135,488	\$135,488
Southern Games	-	-	-
Special Olympics of Trinidad and Tobago	-	\$20,000	\$20,000

## Appendix V: List of Non-Governmental Organizations receiving Government Subventions 2005 & 2006

Organization	Subventions Payable at 2005	Subventions Payable at 2006	Difference in Subventions Payable in 2005 to 2006
Speed O Rammons	-	\$3,959	\$3,959
Spiritual Shouter Baptist Faith of T&T - 5K	\$10,377	\$10,000	-\$377
Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago (SPORTT)	-	\$50,000,000	\$50,000,000
Stern John Skill Awards Programme	\$140,000	-	-\$140,000
Tennis Umpire Association of Trinidad and Tobago	-	\$14,402	\$14,402
Tobago Falcons Athletic Club	-	\$27,829	\$27,829
Tobago Youth Council	-	\$60,000	\$60,000
Triathlon	-	\$1,890	\$1,890
Trinidad and Tobago Amateur Boxing Association	\$15,835	\$161,034	\$145,193
Trinidad and Tobago Amateur Gym Association	-	\$57,094	\$57,094
Trinidad and Tobago Automobile Association	-	\$36,093	\$36,093
Trinidad and Tobago Badminton Association	\$91,314	\$256,838	\$165,524
Trinidad and Tobago Blind Cricket Association	\$9,186	\$12,933	\$3,750
Trinidad and Tobago Bodybuilding Association	-	\$72,053	\$72,053
Trinidad and Tobago Boxing Board of Control	\$36,260	\$56,942	\$20,682
Trinidad and Tobago Chess Association	-	\$89,360	\$89,360
Trinidad and Tobago Clico Marathon	\$20,000	-	-\$20,000
Trinidad and Tobago Contract Bridge Association	-	\$159,000	\$159,000
Trinidad and Tobago Cricket Board of Control	\$128,070	\$594,312	\$466,242
Trinidad and Tobago Cycling Federation	\$80,084	\$3,300	-\$76,784
Trinidad and Tobago Darts Association	-	\$72,204	\$72,204
Trinidad and Tobago Draughts and Checkers Association	-	\$90,216	\$90,216
Trinidad and Tobago Equestrian Association	\$20,000	-	-\$20,000
Trinidad and Tobago Football & Rugby Association	-	\$45,160	\$45,160
Trinidad and Tobago Football Federation	\$1,849,073	\$2,856,691	\$1,007,618
Trinidad and Tobago Game Fishing Association	-	\$68,186	\$68,186
Trinidad and Tobago Golf Association	\$94,500	\$522,249	\$427,749
Trinidad and Tobago Gymnastics Association	-	\$76,535	\$76,535
Trinidad and Tobago Hockey Board	\$164,151	\$11,214	-\$152,937
Trinidad and Tobago Judo Association	-	\$41,621	\$41,621
Trinidad and Tobago Karate Union	\$20,000	\$18,938	-\$1,062
Trinidad and Tobago Netball Association	\$122,172	\$3,600	-\$118,572
Trinidad and Tobago Olympic Committee	-	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Trinidad and Tobago Optimist Dinghy Association	-	\$975,962	\$975,962
Trinidad and Tobago Pro League	\$1,918,000	\$2,500,000	\$582,000
Trinidad and Tobago Rifle Association	-	\$20,225	\$20,225
Trinidad and Tobago Sailing Association	\$1,039,500	-	-\$1,039,500
Trinidad and Tobago Shouter Baptist – Council of Elders	-	\$10,000	\$10,000
Trinidad and Tobago Softball Association	-	\$7,995	\$7,995

## Appendix V: List of Non-Governmental Organizations receiving Government Subventions 2005 & 2006

Organization	Subventions Payable at 2005	Subventions Payable at 2006	Difference in Subventions Payable in 2005 to 2006
Trinidad and Tobago Squash Association	\$101,058	-	-\$101,058
Trinidad and Tobago Surfing Association	\$6,150	\$34,942	\$28,792
Trinidad and Tobago Table Tennis Association	-	\$445,217	\$445,217
Trinidad and Tobago Taekwondo Association	\$50,000	-	-\$50,000
Trinidad and Tobago Target Archery Federation	-	\$34,402	\$34,402
Trinidad and Tobago Tennis Association	\$4,125	\$29,621	\$25,496
Trinidad and Tobago Trap & Skeete Association	-	\$371,917	\$371,917
Trinidad and Tobago Umpire Association	-	\$850	\$850
Trinidad and Tobago Unified Football Association	-	\$1,124	\$1,124
Trinidad and Tobago Volleyball Association	\$1,002,533	-	-\$1,002,533
Trinidad and Tobago Windball Cricket Association	-	\$400,000	\$400,000
Trinidad and Tobago Women's Cricket Board	\$207,210	-	-\$207,210
Trinidad and Tobago Women's Football Association	\$28,000	-	-\$28,000
Trinidad Youth Council	-	\$100,000	\$100,000
WADA	\$67,413	\$34,955	-\$32,458
West Indies Players' Association	\$363,300	-	-\$363,300
World Cup Football	\$125,500	-	-\$125,500
World Walking Day	\$3,312	-	-\$3,312
Wushu Association	-	\$85,233	\$85,233
Young Men's Christian Association	-	\$36,000	\$36,000
Young Women's Christian Association	-	\$30,000	\$30,000
<b>Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs Total Subventions</b>	<b>\$14,618,551</b>	<b>\$65,869,869</b>	<b>\$51,251,314</b>
<b>Tobago House of Assembly</b>			
Family First Foundation Group	\$30,000	\$30,000	-
Fundamentals Cultural Group	\$12,000	\$12,000	-
Jesus Cares Family Cottage	\$144,000	\$144,000	-
School for the Deaf	\$694,000	\$694,000	-
St.Vincent De Paul Home For the Aged	\$12,000	\$12,000	-
Sunset Home for the Aged	\$2,000	\$2,000	-
Syl Phil Home in Love	\$30,000	\$30,000	-
Tobago Council for Handicapped Children	\$879,000	\$879,000	-
Tobago Council of Elders	\$10,000	\$10,000	-
TOWERS	\$30,000	\$30,000	-
<b>Tobago House of Assembly's Total Subventions</b>	<b>\$1,843,000</b>	<b>\$1,843,000</b>	<b>-</b>

## Appendix V: List of Non-Governmental Organizations receiving Government Subventions 2005 & 2006

Organization	Subventions Payable at 2005	Subventions Payable at 2006	Difference in Subventions Payable in 2005 to 2006
<b>Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs</b>			
Trinidad and Tobago Association of Village Councils	\$12,000	\$12,000	-
Trinidad and Tobago Federation of Women's Institute	\$8,000	\$8,000	-
<b>Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs' Total Subventions</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Ministry of National Security</b>			
Crime Stoppers of Trinidad and Tobago	\$4,000,000	-	-\$4,000,000
Police Youth Clubs	\$500,000	\$500,000	-
<b>Ministry of National Security's Total Subventions</b>	<b>\$4,500,000</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>	<b>-\$4,000,000</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$95,373,203</b>	<b>\$148,989,848</b>	<b>\$53,616,645</b>

## Appendix VI: List of Grants to Non-Governmental and Community Based Organisations for Fiscal 2006

Group	Amount
<b>Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs</b>	
National Council of Indian Culture	\$150,000.00
Sanatan Dharma Maha Sabha	\$500,000.00
Talparo Village Council	\$10,000.00
Buccoo Village Council	\$1,500.00
St. David Cultural Committee	\$2,500.00
Maraj Hill Village Council	\$2,500.00
Palo Seco Village Council	\$3,500.00
Pleasantville Community Council	\$3,600.00
Strange V'ge Village Council	\$3,800.00
Reflex Action Group	\$2,200.00
Vega De Oropouche Cultural Organisation	\$2,400.00
Lothians Road Village Council	\$4,100.00
Vistabella Community Council	\$3,500.00
Balmain Village Council	\$2,300.00
Chandernagore Village Community Council	\$2,200.00
Indian Walk Village Council	\$2,400.00
Aranguez Community Group	\$7,500.00
Beaucarro Village Council	\$5,000.00
Belmont Community Council	\$5,000.00
Black Water Village Council	\$2,500.00
Caparo Village Council	\$5,000.00
Cedar Hill Community Council	\$5,000.00
Gasparillo Community Council	\$12,500.00
Guaico Village Council	\$2,500.00
John Elie Road Community Council	\$12,500.00
Las Cuevas Community Group	\$5,000.00
Liberville Community Council	\$10,000.00
Macaulay Hermitage Village Council	\$5,000.00
Railway/Five Rivers Community Council	\$5,000.00
Rock River Community Improvement Group	\$2,500.00
Shende Street Community Council	\$5,000.00
Siparia Community Council	\$5,000.00
South Diego Martin Community Council	\$5,000.00
Cashew Gardens Community Council	\$5,000.00
Cumana Village Council	\$3,600.00
Ste. Madeline Community Group	\$7,500.00
The Santa Rosa Carib Community	\$31,370.00
Penal Rock Carnival Improvement Committee	\$12,000.00
Marabella Concerned Citizens Committee	\$10,000.00

## Appendix VI: List of Grants to Non-Governmental and Community Based Organisations for Fiscal 2006

Group	Amount
<b>Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs</b>	
Oropouche Improvement Committee	\$3,000.00
Lower Brothers Rd. Community Council	\$3,000.00
East Dry River Committee	\$8,000.00
Matura Cultural Committee	\$25,000.00
St. Helena Village Council	\$5,000.00
Sennon Village & Coora Rd Community Council	\$7,000.00
Plaisance Village Council	\$5,000.00
Brickfield Village Council	\$6,000.00
Vance River Community Council	\$5,000.00
Atma Gyan Mandir	\$10,500.00
Bartaria West/Caledonia Community Village Council	\$5,000.00
Victoria Branch Assoc. of V'ge & Comm. Council	\$15,000.00
Tunapuna Environ. Community Group	\$3,750.00
Fyzabad Development & Cultural Committee	\$5,000.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$972,220.00</b>



## Appendix VII: Summary of Programmes provided by the Ministry of Housing

### • **Approved Mortgage Companies (AMC) Programme**

Under this programme, finance companies are allowed tax exempt income derived from mortgages granted for financing the construction or purchase of homes costing up to a maximum of \$450,000. The companies provide these mortgage loans at preferential rates (between 6% and 8%) to qualified persons purchasing houses after a 5% down payment is made. The evidence suggests that the AMC has only been marginally successful in facilitating the home ownership needs of lower income families, but has had significantly more success in doing so for middle income families.

### • **Rental Policy**

The Housing Development Corporation administers and manages its new and existing rental stock, and the assignment of rental units is currently executed based on random selection, utilizing the Ministry of Housing's Home Application Fulfillment System (HAFS). With respect to the application process of a rental unit, the Ministry utilizes a system that:

- Ensures that persons selected are qualified citizens and are able to afford the rental unit allocated to their needs
- Provides an advantage to persons with the greatest need
- Gives all applicants a fair chance of selection

The rental policy stipulates that rents be payable in advance on the first working day of each calendar month. A flat rate of \$100 per month is payable on rental units constructed pre 1962 to 1982. Post 1982 the Authority constructed apartments for rent and maintained the formula that monthly rates be indexed to the income of beneficiaries but on a variable sliding scale of minimum rent of \$100 and maximum of \$350.

### • **Rent to Own Programme**

This programme is intended to target low-income and middle income individuals who are financially unable to service a mortgage. Persons who do not meet the financial requirements to secure mortgage financing will be given consideration for rental accommodation based on their income levels.

The individual is allowed to enter into occupation of a mortgage unit by way of an agreement of a License to Occupy for a period of five (5) years with the option to purchase. If the tenant is still unable to qualify for a mortgage after five years the option will be extended for a further three (3) years. At the end of the five years, two thirds of the rental payment will be applied as a deposit towards the purchase of the property and the rental tenancy will be converted into a mortgage.

Where units are maintained by the HDC, during the period of the Agreement, one third of the rent paid will be retained by the HDC to off-set the maintenance expenditure. All other charges relevant to the property will be borne by the tenant.

### • **IADB Loan**

Under the terms of the financing agreement the IADB will provide US\$32M and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago will provide US\$8M. the objective of this programme is to establish a more equitable, transparent and sustainable system of affordable housing through:

- Improving housing conditions for low-income groups
- Making public expenditure for housing more efficient and equitable
- Providing incentives and assisting institutions, both public and private in their transition to new and more market driven roles

The main components of the loan programme are as follows:

- **Squatter Upgrading (US\$13.5M)**- An estimated 5,400 families are expected to benefit from this component .

## Appendix VII: Summary of Programmes provided by the Ministry of Housing

- **Family Subsidy Component** - This comprises :
  - Subsidy for New Home (US\$16.3M) : an estimated 3,700 low-income families will benefit from subsidies to complement the purchase or construction of new homes
  - Home Improvement (US\$3.7 M) : an estimated 1,100 low-income families will benefit from the provision of matching grants to undertake home improvements
- **Sector and Institutional Development (US \$2.1M)**: This component supports two main tasks:
  1. proposals for modernization of the Ministry of Housing, and
  2. sector development studies and initiatives aimed at addressing strategic sectoral bottlenecks
- **Refurbishment of Existing Housing Stock**

The Ministry of Housing administers two (2) grant/subsidy programmes for repair of existing housing stock:

- Home Improvement Grant : Home owners with a maximum household income of \$36,000 per annum are eligible for a grant of \$15,000 to effect repairs.
- Home Improvement Subsidy: This is a subsidy component of the IADB programme. It involves the provision of a matching grant to beneficiaries with household income less than \$54,000 per annum. Maximum value of the subsidy is \$20,000 subject to the provision of the match in a combination of funds, materials and sweat equity (labour).

(Housing Colloquium, 2006)

## **Appendix VIII: Recommendations Outlined by the Ministry Of Housing for addressing the Challenges associated with the Housing Provision**

### **Upfront Subsidy**

This strategy involves providing upfront subsidies on the value of serviced lots and actual construction costs to facilitate price reduction to persons who otherwise would not have been able to afford a mortgage.

### **Right to Buy Programme**

Eligible tenants in some designated HDC properties would be offered the option to purchase their units at a discounted rate taking into account the length of tenure and quantum of past rental payments.

### **Extended Mortgage Repayment Periods**

Strategies intended to facilitate an extension of the term of the mortgage loan beyond the currently established retirement age of 60-65 years, thereby affording the prospective and/or existing homeowner a more affordable monthly repayment.

### **Other Types of Mortgage Measures**

The introduction of new mortgage measures to make the purchase of houses more affordable including the use of:

- Assumable mortgages on residential units which allow a new owner to assume the mortgage upon the sale of a property
- Portable mortgages which involve the transfer of existing loan balances and any benefits accrued to a new home with or without additional financing
- Assignable mortgages on residential units at minimal costs which would allow for the transfer of the mortgage obligation from one mortgagee to another; such as from one parent to an adult child

### **Reduced Legal Fees and Closing Charges**

Currently, fees associated with the purchase of a property including conveyancing and closing charges can represent a challenge to prospective home owners. Strategies to reduce such fees will assist in making houses more affordable. Some recommendations include:

- Making legal fees associated with the registration of conveyances and mortgages VAT exempt for the purchase of properties which fall under the ceiling for financing under the "approved mortgage company status"
- The standardization of mortgage and conveyance documents in order to simplify the process and reduce the cost of these transactions
- Reducing the cost of insurance coverage

### **Income-Based Rental Policy**

Research on the practices in developed countries shows that rents in public housing are based on household income and are generally set at 25% of household income with a rigorous review annually. The policy of increasing rent as income rises introduces the "push" factor which causes families that are improving themselves economically to move out of public housing rental accommodation and make room for more needy families. This increases the turnover and therefore makes units available to those in need without having to build more units. If reported income shows no increase, then a built-in escalator percentage should be applied.

The viability of this measure is based on the assumptions that as households improve their economic situation they will move on to other housing options making way for more needy families.

## **Appendix VIII: Recommendations Outlined by the Ministry Of Housing for addressing the Challenges associated with the Housing Provision**

### **Provision of Housing for the Elderly / Differently Abled**

Current international data reveals that world wide there is an increasingly aging population and the elderly is increasing as a percentage of the total population. Given this demographic trend in the country, the emphasis should be on providing adapted houses and the implementation of policies that will allow the elderly to remain as long as possible in their own homes.

### **Community Management Programmes**

The management and sustainability of communities is critical to any government housing programme that seeks to continuously create integrated and sustainable communities. Measures must be instituted to ensure that the everyday activities which are essential to the functioning and survival of individuals and communities are managed in an effective and sustainable manner. Individuals and groups must be empowered to take action and assume responsibility for maintaining and enhancing their living conditions.

Training and Public Awareness Programmes could be used to assist the population in adapting to life in high density situations, which is not consistent with the expectation and practice of living in single family housing units.

### **Role of SILWC**

The Sugar Industry Labour and Welfare Committee (SILWC) has expertise in facilitating small scale development by giving advice on land development and home construction and the administration of home improvement grants and soft loans for home construction and repairs. Given this expertise and a declining customer base, it is proposed that SILWC could be established as a subsidiary of the newly established Housing Development Corporation

### **Other suggestions under consideration include:**

- Provision of rental assistance grants / subsidies to individuals such as social welfare recipients who are unable to make their payments on rental units.
- Soft loans for construction and repairs

**Appendix IX: Allocations and Expenditure on Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006 and Actual Expenditure for Fiscal 2005 under Recurrent Expenditure**

Head/Sub Items	2005 Actual Expenditure	2006 Budgeted Allocation	2006 Estimated Expenditure
<b>Recurrent Expenditure</b>			
<b>Ministry of Local Government</b>			
Unemployment Relief Programme	\$347,100,000	\$370,000,000	\$239,775,265
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$347,100,000</b>	<b>\$370,000,000</b>	<b>\$239,775,265</b>
<b>Ministry of Social Development</b>			
Non-Profit Institutions	\$1,909,235	\$7,347,000	\$6,400,000
Non-Profit Institutions (SSD)	\$14,985,107	\$15,514,000	\$15,514,000
Orphanages & Industrial Schools			
St Michael's School for Boys	\$5,860,000	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000
St Jude's Home for Girls	\$4,118,779	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000
St Mary's Children's Home	\$8,499,000	\$9,000,000	\$9,000,000
St Dominic's Children's Home	\$7,908,000	\$8,500,000	\$8,500,000
<b>Transfers:</b>			
Adoption Board	\$85,115	\$75,000	\$75,000
Assistance to National Heroes	\$830,208	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Conditional Cash Transfer Programme	-	\$250,000,000	\$24,000,000
Disability Assistance Grant	\$123,454,200	\$152,000,000	\$152,000,000
Emergency Cases Fund (Probation Services)	\$24,873	\$74,000	\$74,000
Feeding Programme for the Needy (SHARE)	\$43,739,659	\$50,000,000	\$46,500,000
Foster Care Expenses	\$258,623	\$1,018,000	\$500,000
Payment of Fees for the Registration of Births & Deaths	\$230	\$50,000	\$10,000
Old Age Pension Programme	\$900,737,421	\$1,032,750,000	\$1,032,750,000
Urgent Temporary Assistance	\$3,347,069	\$2,730,000	\$7,230,000
Social Assistance/Public Assistance Grant	\$155,595,389	\$271,200,000	\$195,240,000
T'dad & T'go Blind Welfare Association	\$5,670,000	\$9,113,662	\$6,193,466
T'dad Association for the Hearing Impaired	\$4,012,000	\$4,316,296	\$4,440,910
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,281,034,908</b>	<b>\$1,826,187,958</b>	<b>\$1,520,927,376</b>
<b>Office of the Prime Minister</b>			
Citizen's Initiative Fund	\$412,942	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000
Commonwealth Ex-Services League	\$887,159,000	\$1,018,000	\$510,000
Response to HIV/AIDS	\$319,461	\$1,000,000	\$500,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$887,891,403</b>	<b>\$3,018,000</b>	<b>\$2,010,000</b>
<b>Tobago House of Assembly</b>			
Agricultural Incentive Programme	\$1,000,000	\$2,350,000	\$1,109,000
CARE Programme (Tobago)	\$1,639,200	\$3,500,000	\$2,700,000
Children's Authority of Trinidad and Tobago	\$500,000	\$500,000	\$500,000

## Appendix IX: Allocations and Expenditure on Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006 and Actual Expenditure for Fiscal 2005 under Recurrent Expenditure

Head/sub Items	2005 Actual Expenditure	2006 Budgeted Allocation	2006 Estimated Expenditure
Export Centres	\$300,000	\$1,500,000	\$300,000
Grants to Necessitous Persons Fund	\$800,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
Grants to Necessitous Students Attending Public Schools	\$40,000	\$800,000	\$800,000
Home for the Aged, Emergency Cases & Foster Care Services	\$1,048,000	\$1,048,000	\$1,048,000
National Service	\$1,000,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000
Non-Profit Institutions (Community Dev & Culture)	\$3,000,000	\$3,480,000	\$3,480,000
School for the Deaf	\$674,400	\$1,057,168	\$1,268,602
School Feeding Programme	\$18,000,000	\$26,902,800	\$32,283,360
Special Social Programmes	\$850,000	\$925,000	\$925,000
Tobago Council for Handicapped Children	\$848,100	\$1,283,920	\$1,069,934
Youth Development Programme	\$1,562,000	\$1,700,000	\$1,700,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$31,261,700</b>	<b>\$47,446,888</b>	<b>\$49,583,896</b>
<b>Ministry of National Security</b>			
Civilian Conservation Corps	\$25,891,069	\$32,000,000	\$25,000,000
Military-Led Academic Training (MILAT)	\$4,093,533	\$10,000,000	\$6,000,000
Military-Led Youth Programme of Apprenticeship and Re-Orientation (MYPART)	\$1,319,899	\$10,000,000	\$2,500,000
National Youth Service	\$2,938,372	\$10,000,000	\$2,500,000
Police Youth Club	\$179,863	\$500,000	\$225,000
School Discipline Initiative	\$798,758	\$800,000	\$75,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$35,221,494</b>	<b>\$63,300,000</b>	<b>\$36,300,000</b>
<b>Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development</b>			
Non Profit Institutions	\$271,040	\$956,215	\$956,215
National Entrepreneurship Development Company (NEDCO)	\$82,075,000	\$33,175,000	\$33,175,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$82,346,040</b>	<b>\$34,131,215</b>	<b>\$34,131,215</b>
<b>Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Marine Resources</b>			
YAPA Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture	\$4,029,000	\$6,000,000	\$4,500,000
Agricultural Incentive Programme	\$17,794,077	\$27,162,000	\$20,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$21,823,077</b>	<b>\$33,162,000</b>	<b>\$24,500,000</b>
<b>Ministry of Education</b>			
Adult Education/Lifelong Learning Unit	\$5,180,921	\$7,874,000	\$7,874,000
Books for Children of Deceased Public Officers	\$52,116	\$50,000	\$50,000
Early Childhood Care and Education	\$15,458,936	\$20,100,000	\$22,222,000



**Appendix IX: Allocations and Expenditure on Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006 and Actual Expenditure for Fiscal 2005 under Recurrent Expenditure**

Head/sub Items	2005 Actual Expenditure	2006 Budgeted Allocation	2006 Estimated Expenditure
Grants for Students - Conferences/Seminars/Competitions	\$808,113	\$1,092,000	\$2,092,000
School Nutrition Programme (now National Schools Dietary Services Ltd.)	\$151,000,000	\$200,000,000	\$200,000,000
Servol Adolescent Development Training Programme	\$9,701,100	\$7,902,000	\$9,702,000
Servol Junior Life Centres	\$1,267,988	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000
Students Support Services	\$15,000,000	\$12,700,000	\$7,700,000
Trinidad & Tobago National Council of Parent/Teachers Associations	\$150,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$198,619,174</b>	<b>\$251,218,000</b>	<b>\$251,140,000</b>
<b>Ministry of Health</b>			
Drugs	-	\$200,000,000	\$213,200,000
Transfers:			
Grants to Necessitous Patients	\$1,863	\$70,000	\$70,000
Medical Treatment of Nationals in Institutions	\$9,874,235	\$8,000,000	\$13,946,000
Non-Profit Institutions	\$3,244,126	\$4,100,000	\$4,100,000
T'dad & T'go Association for Retarded Children (Lady Hochoy Home)	\$7,660,000	\$8,616,603	\$7,339,200
Princess Elizabeth Home for Handicapped	\$5,466,000	\$6,363,969	5,892,569
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,246,224</b>	<b>\$227,150,572</b>	<b>\$244,547,769</b>
<b>Ministry of Public Utilities and the Environment</b>			
Community Environment Improvement Initiative (CEII)	\$3,086,100	\$3,500,000	\$3,500,000
Community-based Environmental Protection & Enhancement Programme (CEPEP)	\$244,264,847	\$425,000,000	\$423,000,000
Hardship Relief Programme - Rebate in Water Rates	\$1,127,230	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
National Social Development Programme (NSDP)	\$226,060,759	\$200,000,000	\$200,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$474,538,936</b>	<b>\$629,600,000</b>	<b>\$627,600,000</b>
<b>Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education</b>			
GATE	\$104,951,000	\$250,000,000	\$250,000,000
Help Youth Prepare for Employment Programme (HYPE)	\$19,000,000	\$30,000,000	\$30,000,000
Metal Industries Co Ltd (National Skills Development Prog)	\$9,047,000	\$12,068,000	\$12,068,000
Multi-Sector Skill Training Programme(MuST)	\$19,048,879	\$50,000,000	\$40,000,000
On the Job Training Programme	\$60,362,307	\$84,000,000	\$80,000,000
Retraining Programme for Displaced Workers	\$7,347,045	\$14,000,000	\$12,500,000
Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme Ltd (YTEPP)	\$40,000,000	\$49,000,000	\$49,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$259,756,231</b>	<b>\$489,068,000</b>	<b>\$473,568,000</b>

**Appendix IX: Allocations and Expenditure on Social Programmes and Initiatives for Fiscal 2006 and Actual Expenditure for Fiscal 2005 under Recurrent Expenditure**

Head/sub Items	2005 Actual Expenditure	2006 Budgeted Allocation	2006 Estimated Expenditure
<b>Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs</b>			
Community Action for Revival and Empowerment (CARE)	\$10,474,387	\$10,000,000	\$7,086,000
Community Improvement Services Co Ltd	-	\$5,000,000	-
Export Centres	\$6,600,000	\$7,000,000	\$6,733,400
National Commission for Self Help	\$3,000,000	\$3,600,200	\$4,800,300
National Service (GAPP)	\$6,971,673	\$9,000,000	\$5,477,400
Non-Profit Institutions and Gender Affairs	\$30,402,622	\$35,000,000	\$40,053,700
Non-Profit Institutions (Culture)	\$8,198,268	\$4,500,000	\$12,507,900
Terminal Malls	\$1,242,242	\$2,500,000	\$2,000,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$66,889,192</b>	<b>\$76,600,200</b>	<b>\$78,658,700</b>
<b>Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs</b>			
Youth Development and Apprenticeship Centres (TDAC)	\$20,097,160	\$26,019,072	\$21,735,900
Non-Profit Institutions	\$17,036,915	\$23,183,000	\$23,183,000
Youth Training	-	\$2,000,000	\$2,150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$37,134,075</b>	<b>\$51,202,072</b>	<b>\$47,068,900</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$3,749,862,454</b>	<b>\$4,102,084,905</b>	<b>\$3,629,811,121</b>

## Appendix X: Key Social Programmes and Structural/Institutional Initiatives funded by the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) 2006

Programme & Initiatives	Budgeted Allocations 2005
<b>Ministry of Sport &amp; Youth Affairs</b>	
Construction of Cocoyea Recreational Facility	\$2,500,000
Establishment of a National Youth Council	\$630,000
Implementation of a National Youth Policy - Establishment of a PIU	\$1,000,000
Programmes for Reconstruction Works at Youth Centres (Basilon Street)	\$6,000,000
Refurbishment of National Youth Development and Apprenticeship Centres	\$2,500,000
Refurbishment of Youth Training Facilities	\$2,500,000
Save the Youth in Marginalized Communities	\$1,000,000
Youth Health Programme - Provision of Adolescent Friendly Health Services	\$4,000,000
<b>Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs Total</b>	<b>\$20,130,000</b>
<b>Ministry of Local Government</b>	
Development of a Local Government Policy and Programme of Action	\$2,100,000
<b>Ministry of Local Government Total</b>	<b>\$2,100,000</b>
<b>Ministry of Health</b>	
Establishment of a Population Registration System	\$4,000,000
HIV/AIDS Prevention and Control Project	\$30,000,000
National Community Care Programme	\$500,000
Special Programme - Chronic Diseases	\$10,000,000
Special Programme - Renal Dialysis	\$10,000,000
Special Programme - Treatment of Adult Cardiac Disease	\$12,000,000
Tissue Transplant	\$3,000,000
Waiting List for Surgery	\$9,000,000
<b>Ministry of Health Total</b>	<b>\$78,500,000</b>
<b>Ministry of Science, Technology &amp; Tertiary Education</b>	
Establishment of a National Community College	\$5,900,000
Establishment of a National Accreditation Council	\$1,255,000
Establishment of the Council for Science, Technology and Innovation	\$1,000,000
National Skills Development Programme	\$7,000,000
Research and Development Foresighting	\$1,000,000
Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme Ltd (YTEPP)	\$2,000,000
YTEPP Limited - Construction of Two Training Centres	\$2,500,000
<b>Ministry of Science, Technology &amp; Tertiary Education Total</b>	<b>\$20,655,000</b>
<b>Ministry of Public Administration &amp; Information</b>	
Establishment of Inventors and Innovators Award/Prime Minister's Award	\$3,000,000
<b>Ministry of Public Administration and Information Total</b>	<b>\$3,000,000</b>

## Appendix X: Key Social Programmes and Structural/Institutional Initiatives funded by the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) 2006

Programme & Initiatives	Budgeted Allocations 2005
<b>Office of The Prime Minister</b>	
HIV/AIDS Programmes	\$28,000,000
<b>Office of the Prime Minister Total</b>	<b>\$28,000,000</b>
<b>Ministry of Education</b>	
Early Childhood Care Education	\$21,700,000
Establishment of Childhood Centres	\$1,000,000
Provision of Library and Textbooks - Fourth Basic Education Programme	\$6,000,000
School Intervention Strategies	\$2,100,000
<b>Ministry of Education Total</b>	<b>\$30,800,000</b>
<b>Ministries in Trinidad Sub Total</b>	<b>\$347,585,000</b>
<b>Tobago House of Assembly</b>	
Community Mediation	\$500,000
Construction of Wellness/Fitness Centre	\$800,000
Construction of Community Swimming Pools	\$1,000,000
Establishment of Probation Hostels	\$500,000
Golden Apple Adolescents Partnership Programme	\$500,000
Health Needs Assessment for Tobago	\$300,000
Introduction to Music, Dance and Fine Arts in Schools	\$500,000
Performing Arts Centre	\$800,000
Programme for Adolescent Mothers	\$800,000
Project for the Realisation of Economic Achievement (REACH)	\$800,000
Social Services and Prison Integrated Network (SPINE)	\$500,000
Tobago Drug Council and Alcohol Drug Abuse & HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme	\$14,500,000
Tobago Elderly Housing and Rehabilitative Centre	\$1,000,000
Vocation Centre for Persons with Mental Retardation	\$500,000
<b>Tobago House of Assembly Total</b>	<b>\$23,000,000</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$370,585,000</b>

## Appendix XI: Status Of New Programmes, Policies And Initiatives That Were Planned For Implementation In Fiscal 2006

Programme/ Policy/ Structural Initiative	Ministry	Status
Community Education Programme- Spanish as our first Foreign Language	Ministry Of Community Development & Gender Affairs	The pilot phase of this programme has already commenced.
National Oncology Programme	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	Construction on the National Oncology Centre has already begun and should be completed in fiscal 2007.
New Community Mediation Programme	MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	The Ministry has recruited staff and located sites for the establishment of Centres.
Survey of Child Victimization	MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	The project proposal has been submitted to Cabinet for review
Study on the Social Impact of Legal Gambling	MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	Cabinet granted its approval for the conduct of the survey. The Ministry is reviewing submissions by consultants who are interested in conducting the study.
Survey on the Status of Men in Society	MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	Cabinet granted its approval for the conduct of the survey. The Ministry is preparing the Terms of Reference and an advertisement to invite prospective consultants to submit proposals.
National Plan of Action	MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	This proposal has been completed and forwarded to Cabinet for approval.
National Parenting Programme	MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT	A proposal was developed and two consultations were held with key stakeholders to obtain their comments and recommendations on the document. The revised proposal was submitted in house for approval.
Establishment of an Accreditation Council	MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION	The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT) was officially launched in May 2006. It offers five services as follows: 1) Registration, 2) Accreditation, 3) Quality Enhancement,

## Appendix XI: Status Of New Programmes, Policies And Initiatives That Were Planned For Implementation In Fiscal 2006

Programme/ Policy/ Structural Initiative	Ministry	Status
		4) Recognition, and 5) Conferment of Title. The establishment of the ACTT is intended to meet the increasing demands for the implementation of standards and mechanisms to assure the quality of institutions and the programmes they offer. In order to enjoy a high level of public confidence and the respect of the regional and international communities, the ACTT will act independently to safeguard the public interest and meet the needs of all stakeholders.
National Policy on the Development of Tertiary Education, Training and Distance and Lifelong Learning	MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION	The Green Paper was published as planned and public consultations will be conducted in fiscal 2007.
Establishment of a National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation Policy on Biotechnology (NCOSTI)	MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION	An interim Council is proposed for establishment in fiscal 2007.
Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP)	MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION	This programme which replaces both the Students' Revolving Loan Fund (SRLF) and the University Students' Guarantee Loan Fund (USGLF) was officially launched in June 2006 and it is expected that students will be able to access funding for the beginning of the new semester/ trimester in September 2006.
Rehabilitating Inmates through Training and Retraining	MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION	This programme was officially launched in May of fiscal 2006 and will be offered at all male and female prisons in the Tunapuna/ Piarco area, to groups of eighty (80) inmates per six-month cycle. The programme will provide training to incarcerated persons prior to their release, with the intent of reducing the possibility of re-offending and recidivism.



## Appendix XI: Status Of New Programmes, Policies And Initiatives That Were Planned For Implementation In Fiscal 2006

Programme/ Policy/ Structural Initiative	Ministry	Status
The Block Leadership Initiative for the New Generation (BLING)	THE MINISTRY OF SPORT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS	Not yet implemented
Project - Voice of the Youth	MINISTRY OF SPORT & YOUTH AFFAIRS	Not yet implemented

## Appendix XII: Description of New Programmes

### Programmes

#### **Operation of a facility for Older Persons at Hernandez Place Arima**

Through the Ministry of Social Development, this programme will provide residential care for socially displaced persons age 55 and over, particularly those clients who have negative social behaviour that would make it difficult for placement in existing NGO Homes for the Elderly. The programme targets older persons who are socially displaced and who may be unemployed, ex-prisoners/deportees and/or substance abusers. The overall goal of this programme is:

- To increase placement options for socially displaced elderly persons.

Its specific objectives are:

- Provide appropriate care for older socially displaced persons requiring special care.

#### **Youth Resources for Implementing Successful Enterprises (Youth RISE)**

The objective of this programme, introduced through the Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, is to encourage young people to develop a business. It will provide twelve (12) "at risk" young persons in the age range 16-25 years with entrepreneurial training, mentoring and financial support. The expected outcome in the development of viable business ventures by participants, thereby leading to improvement in their lives and a capacity to contribute to national development.

#### **Programme to assist the Differently-abled in Finding Sustainable Employment**

This programme, initiated by the Ministry of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprises, is expected to significantly impact the social and economic well being of the visually impaired.

It is a pilot project which aims to:

- Effectively integrate the visually impaired into the mainstream world of work
- Allow visually impaired persons to have an equal opportunity in the workplace

- Impact on legislation and policies dealing with the differently-abled
- Create awareness and sensitivity among employers and workers within the greater society.

#### **Roving Care Giver Programme (Tobago)**

This programme is an informal early childhood education programme that seeks to reach children from birth to three years of age, who do not have access to any formal early childhood education.

The aim of the programme is:

- To offer early stimulation to young children and improve parenting practices in disadvantaged communities.
- To recruit and train care givers from the communities to assist in the delivery of parent support and services, and
- To transfer the newly acquired knowledge and skills in working with families and communities to a range of local support agencies.

#### **Boyz II Men (Tobago)**

This programme initiated by the Community Development Department of the Tobago House of Assembly, is aimed at targeting unemployed men, men with low self-esteem and men on the block. It is designed to accomplish the following:

- Increase self-esteem within males
- Improve family life
- Increase male empowerment
- Decrease anti-social behaviour
- Increase male involvement in community organizations

#### **Community School for the Performing Arts (Tobago)**

The aim of this programme is to encourage community development through the Arts and to acknowledge the primary role of the Arts in developing and sustaining culture, and in promoting knowledge and understanding of the historical and social context of the Arts both within Trinidad & Tobago and in a global context.

To accomplish this, the Department of Culture sought and obtained a partnership with the University of the West Indies

## Appendix XII: Description of New Programmes

who provided trained tutors in the fields of the Visual and Performing Arts.

### **Car Wash Programme for Recovering Addicts (Tobago)**

The Car Wash Programme is dedicated to the eradication of recovering addicts off the streets of Scarborough. The Programme seeks to foster team spirit, create employment and rehabilitate recovering addicts, in Scarborough and environs.

The programme aims to provide an environment where recovering addicts are engaged in activities geared towards their self sufficiency, and where the marketing of services is possible to the extent of employment creation and reintegration back into society. It will also guarantee treatment and rehabilitation services and facilities to meet the diverse needs of individuals.

### **Senior Citizen Centres (Tobago)**

These Senior Citizen Centres are to be established by the Division of Health and Social Services (THA) and are intended to provide older persons with the opportunity to participate socially amongst their peers in an environment where they can engage in constructive activities and facilitate their continued inclusion in society. They will also provide the necessary physical and mental stimulation and support mechanism to enable older persons to remain active and healthy.

### **National Counseling Programme**

This programme, which is to be implemented through the Ministry of Social Development, was developed after identifying a need to expand the provision and accessibility of counseling and other intervention services that would equip adults, children and families with skills to cope with social and emotional stresses and to develop the ability to engage in effective and positive behaviors as imperative for addressing the ongoing socio-economic challenges impacting upon these groups. Its objectives are:

- To increase the availability of counseling and other intervention services in all communities
- To facilitate easier access by vulnerable citizens to a wide

range of counselors and therapists'

- To provide the support of a network of professionals trained and experienced in the field of psychology and counseling and social work
- To provide individual and family assistance for adults, children and adolescents
- To complement the functions of existing agencies, both governmental and non-governmental
- To complement and/or facilitate the need for counseling and intervention services, governmental and non-governmental
- To establish collaboration amongst governmental and non-governmental agencies for an integrated and holistic delivery of services
- To apply monitoring and evaluation mechanisms that would inform programme delivery and determine the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery

The program will treat with a broad spectrum of psycho-social problems most associated with children, adolescents, adults and families which includes:

- Sexual, physical and psychological abuses
- Juvenile deviance and delinquency
- Violence and crime
- Drug use, abuse and addiction
- HIV / AIDS
- Other sexuality issues including developing and managing interpersonal relationships
- Psychiatric disorders
- Stress, trauma and loss
- Parenting
- Spousal relationships, marriage and divorce
- Communication breakdown within families
- Poverty and social displacement (homelessness / vagrancy)
- Disabilities

The programme will consist of the following components which are intended to support and complement each other and may be implemented concurrently:

- I. Expansion of counseling and other intervention services to individuals and families in communities, utilizing the integrative and collaborative services of governmental and non-governmental service providers (short to

## Appendix XII: Description of New Programmes

medium term – 6 to 8 months)

2. Pursuit of restructuring and/or institutional strengthening activities of the National Family Services Division to enhance its capability to implement, monitor and evaluate the Programme
3. the establishment of a comprehensive Information System amongst all the social service providers
4. collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education, the University of the West Indies and other relevant stakeholders to introduce training opportunities and incentives for certification in the relevant areas. This would ensure that there is an adequate supply of skilled professionals to deliver developmental, remedial, preventative and support services to families
5. expansion of the existing public awareness campaign to sensitize adults, adolescents, families and communities about the availability of and access to counseling and other intervention services to help them treat with the social pressures impacting upon their lives and equip them with the ability to engage in effective and positive behaviours.

## Projects

### Steel Pan for Primary Schools (Tobago)

Through the Department of Culture (THA) this pilot project will entail the acquisition and supply of instruments to eight (8) specially chosen primary schools. It is envisaged that this project will run for one school year during which time, the project will be monitored by cultural officers, who will then do an evaluation at the end of the period.

National Plan of Action (For Children) Research Project  
The Ministry of Social Development will be responsible for this project which entails the research and compilation of information on the status of children in Trinidad and Tobago as it relates to the priority areas identified in the NPA, identifying the gaps in existing research and (ii) conduct research on the existing social policy framework in order to identify deficiencies and gaps which impede the implementation of the

NPA and CRC in this country. The overall goal of the project is: To facilitate the improved acceptance and implementation of the NPA and CRC in Trinidad and Tobago.

The objectives of the project are:

- To create an improved knowledge base of information on children's issues in Trinidad and Tobago.
- To facilitate the effective development of policies and programmes which positively impact the lives of the children of the nation.

### Sensitization On The Nation Plan of Action For Children

This project succeeds a revised National Plan of Action document that was developed out of a synthesis of workshops in relation to the emerging issues pertinent to children. In order to sensitize stakeholders, the Ministry of Social Development proposes to host sensitization sessions in fiscal 2006-2007. These sessions will target stakeholders that work in areas relevant to children in order to raise awareness on the revised NPA document. The goals of this project are:

- To raise awareness of the NPA and Trinidad and Tobago's commitments under "A World Fit for Children", the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the World Fit for Children.
- To sensitize stakeholders to the key priorities for children over the period 2002-2010 and the strategies devised to treat with identified priorities.

The project objectives are:

- To facilitate understanding and acceptance of the revised NPA document.

## Surveys

### A Nationwide Survey on Child Victimization in Trinidad and Tobago

This survey will use structured questionnaires and documented case studies. The overall goal is: To assess the incidence of child victimization in Trinidad and Tobago and ascertain its impact on the life of victims, family life and on society as a whole.

The objectives of this survey are:

- To ascertain the incidence, causes and effects of child victimization in Trinidad and Tobago.

## Appendix XII: Description of New Programmes

- To determine current approaches to dealing with the problems and to assess their effectiveness.
- To examine the role of intervening bodies/agencies and make recommendations for new policy and programme initiatives aimed at reducing the incidence of child abuse and treating more effectively with cases of child abuse.

### Initiatives

#### Public Awareness Campaign on the National Policy on Persons with Disabilities

The overall goal of this initiative is: to raise the level of public awareness regarding the National Policy on Persons with Disabilities and its implications for both implementing agencies and the national population. The public awareness campaign will be comprised of a series of media initiatives. These initiatives would include, in the first instance, column and full page advertisements in the daily newspapers as well as radio advertisements. The Policy and the Action Plan would be printed, bound and circulated. Copies would also be made available in Braille, large print and electronically. The campaign would be implemented over an extended period, preferably throughout the fiscal year to ensure sustainability.

Sensitization flyers will also be developed. These will be distributed at various supermarkets and malls nationwide. The flyers would also be circulated in key geographic areas using the daily newspapers.

It is intended that these initiatives would expose a greater portion of the population to information on the Policy so as to effectively increase levels of awareness among the national citizenry.

#### Criminal Injuries Compensation Unit

The Criminal Injuries Compensation Unit will provide operational support to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. The Board was formed out of legislation governed by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Act No.21 of 1999. The Act provides for the establishment of a Criminal Injuries Compensation Board, to receive and consider applications for compensation from victims of certain crimes and to make recommendations on the quantum of compensation

to be paid to their dependants. The functions of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Unit will be:

- To undertake investigative work with respect to applications for compensation
- To prepare and present reports on applications for compensation
- To record and maintain up-to-date data on the programme
- To serve as secretariat to the Board

The core role and function of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board is:

- To meet at least twice per month to receive presentations from officers on applications being processed
- To approve applications for compensation

#### Public Education Campaign on Social Displacement

This campaign of the Ministry of Social Development will educate the general public on issues of social displacement with a view to alleviating street dwelling and street feeding and enlisting support from the public and care service providers for the socially displaced clientele. The overall goal of this campaign is to increase public awareness on the nature, treatment and rehabilitation required for socially displaced persons. The specific objectives are to:

- Provide information of socially displaced persons via media on the diversity.
- Inform on programmes and services available.
- Invite purposeful public participation.

#### The National Steel Symphony

The Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs will embark on sustaining the flagship for musicianship, professionalism, ambassadorship and multi-cultural expression through the establishment of a National Steel Symphony. The programme would provide employment to approximately 60 to 70 pianists who would be accorded the status of professional musicians in order to execute a wide variety of world music, including symphonic repertoire and in keeping with the best steel orchestras in the National Steelband Festivals. There would also be outreach programmes through annual activities that target communities and schools.

**Appendix XIII: Budgeted Allocations for Trinidad & Tobago Social Programmes for Fiscal 2006 (In the Categories of Developmental, Preventative & Remedial)**

Programme	Budgeted Allocations 2006
<b>Developmental</b>	
<b>Community Development and a Peaceful Environment</b>	
Aided Self-Help Programme	\$3,600,000.00
Community Action for Revival and Empowerment (CARE)	\$10,000,000.00
Community Concerts (Anaculture)	\$2,587,515.00
Community Environment Improvement Initiative	\$3,500,000.00
Community Swimming Programme	\$1,405,000.00
Prime Minister's Best Village Competitions and Exhibitions	\$7,000,000.00
Community Enhancement and Regeneration Programme (CERP)	\$2,800,000.00
Refurbishment of Community Centres	\$2,439,855.00
Community Development Fund (CDF)	\$12,000,000.00
Community Improvement Services Ltd	\$5,000,000.00
Support to Non-Governmental Institutions (Community Development)	\$20,000.00
National Social Development Programme (NSDP)	\$200,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$250,352,370.00</b>
<b>Family</b>	
Family Media Programme	\$200,000.00
Healthy Family Functioning	\$8,000,000.00
Radio Programme-It's family time, Lets talk	\$160,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,360,000.00</b>
<b>Education and Skills Development</b>	
Adult Education/Lifelong Learning Unit	\$7,874,000.00
Civilian Conservation Corps	\$32,000,000.00
Community Development Scholarship Programme	\$8,000,000.00
Community Education Programme	\$1,577,778.00
Export Centres Programme	\$7,000,000.00
Government Assistance for Tertiary Education (GATE)	\$250,000,000.00
Helping You Prepare for Employment (HYPE)	\$30,000,000.00
Military-Led Academic Training Programme (MILAT)	\$10,000,000.00
Military-Led Youth Programme of Apprenticeship & Re-Orientation (MYPART)	\$10,000,000.00
Multi-Sector Skill Training (MUST) Programme	\$50,000,000.00
National Youth Service	\$10,000,000.00
National Skills Development Programme	\$12,068,000.00
Non-Traditional Skills Training for Women	\$2,000,000.00
On the Job Training (OJT)	\$84,000,000.00
Retraining Programme for Displaced Workers	\$14,000,000.00
Women in Harmony	\$2,000,000.00
Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA)	\$6,000,000.00
Youth Development and Apprenticeship Centres	\$26,019,072.00



**Appendix XIII: Budgeted Allocations for Trinidad & Tobago Social Programmes for Fiscal 2006 (In the Categories of Developmental, Preventative & Remedial)**

Programme	Budgeted Allocations 2006
Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP)	\$49,000,000.00
Support to Non-Governmental Institutions (Education)	\$9,402,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$620,940,850.00</b>
<b>Youth Development</b>	
Information Made Available through Technology (IMAT) Centres	\$1,000,000.00
National Youth Sport Festival Programme	\$495,000.00
Youth Facilities Development Programme	\$5,535,000.00
Youth Training	\$2,000,000.00
Support to Non-Governmental Institutions (Youth & Sports)	\$65,869,862.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$74,899,862.00</b>
<b>Social Inclusion</b>	
Empowerment Series for Residents of the Centre for Socially Displaced Persons	\$100,000.00
Gender Training and Sensitization Programme/Male Support Programme	\$1,639,600.00
Geriatric Adolescent Partnership Programme (GAPP)	\$9,000,000.00
National Social Development Programme (NSDP)	\$200,000,000.00
Retirees/Adolescents Partnership Programme (RAPP)	\$2,000,000.00
Establishment of Senior Centres	\$500,000.00
Comprehensive Programme to address the needs of Ex-Prisoners in Trinidad & Tobago	\$500,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$213,739,600.00</b>
<b>Sustainable livelihoods</b>	
Community Based Micro Enterprise Programme (Micro Enterprise Loan(MEL) Facility)	\$1,000,000.00
Agriculture Incentive Programme	\$27,162,000.00
National Enterprise Development Company (NEDCO)	\$33,175,000.00
Terminal Malls	\$2,500,000.00
Community-based Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (CEPEP)	425,000,000.00
Micro Enterprise and Training and Development Grant (MEG)	\$500,000.00
Unemployment Relief Programme (URP)	\$370,000,000.00
Transformation and Development Centres	\$3,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$862,337,000.00</b>
<b>Poverty</b>	
Poverty Reduction Programme (EU Sponsored)	\$7,000,000.00
Multi-Purpose Community Based Telecentre (MCT) Project	\$1,000,000.00
Decentralization of the Delivery of Social Services to the Community	\$300,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,300,000.00</b>
<b>Developmental Programmes Sub Total</b>	<b>\$2,038,929,682.00</b>

**Appendix XIII: Budgeted Allocations for Trinidad & Tobago Social Programmes for Fiscal 2006 (In the Categories of Developmental, Preventative & Remedial)**

Programme	Budgeted Allocations 2006
<b>Remedial Health and Wellness</b>	
Anti-Retroviral Treatment Programme	\$7,000,000.00
Medical Treatment of Nationals in Institutions	\$8,000,000.00
Chronic Disease Assistance Plan (C-DAP)	\$40,000,000.00
Government Subsidy for Adult Cardiac Surgery	\$19,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$74,000,000.00</b>
<b>Poverty</b>	
Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (TT Card)	\$250,000,000.00
Disability Assistance Grant	\$152,000,000.00
Financial Assistance to Necessitous Patients (Medical Aids Committee)	\$70,000.00
Hardship Relief Programme	\$1,000,000.00
Old Age Pension Programme	\$1,032,750,000.00
Public Assistance Programme	\$271,200,000.00
Social Help and Rehabilitative Efforts (S.H.A.R.E.)	\$50,000,000.00
Urgent Temporary Assistance Programme	\$2,730,000.00
Emergency Cases Fund	\$74,000.00
Support to Non-Governmental Institutions (Social Development)	\$53,239,412.00
School Crossing Guard Programme	\$209,400.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,813,272,812.00</b>
<b>Family</b>	
Adoption Board Expenses	\$75,000.00
Foster Care Expenses	\$1,018,000.00
Domestic Violence Programme	\$2,645,090.00
Remedial Therapy Programme	\$500,000.00
Family Life Management Workshops/Series	\$400,000.00
ILO Rehabilitation of Child Labourers Programme	\$373,068.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,011,158.00</b>
<b>Education and Skills Development</b>	
Transformation and Development Centers	\$3,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,000,000.00</b>
<b>Social Inclusion</b>	
Adolescent Mothers Programme	\$834,362.00
Piparo Empowerment Centre Programme	\$1,000,000.00
Provision of Medical and Psychiatric Services at the Centre for Socially Displaced Persons	\$50,000.00
Rehabilitation of Socially Displaced Substance Abusers	\$100,000.00
Relocating of Socially Displaced Elderly to Homes for Older Persons	\$100,000.00
Personal Assistants Training Programme	\$409,975.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,494,337.00</b>

**Appendix XIII: Budgeted Allocations for Trinidad & Tobago Social Programmes for Fiscal 2006 (In the Categories of Developmental, Preventative & Remedial)**

Programme	Budgeted Allocations 2006
<b>Office of the Prime Minister</b>	
Support to Non-Governmental Institutions	\$412,625.00
<b>Remedial Programmes Sub Total</b>	<b>\$1,898,190,932.00</b>
<b>Preventive Poverty</b>	
School Transportation	\$56,700,000.00
Textbook Rental/Loan Programme	\$64,500,000.00
Secondary School Book Grants	\$10,000,000.00
School Nutrition Programme (now School Dietary Services Ltd.)	\$200,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$331,200,000.00</b>
<b>Education and Skills Development</b>	
Early Child Care & Education Programme	\$20,100,000.00
Student Support Services	\$12,700,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$32,800,000.00</b>
<b>Health and Wellness</b>	
National AIDS Programme (including RapPort)	\$3,000,000.00
Prevention of Mother to Child Transmission of HIV Programme	\$1,500,000.00
Youth Health Project	\$4,000,000.00
Support to Non-Governmental Institutions (Health)	\$17,703,402.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$26,203,402.00</b>
<b>Community Development and a Peaceful Environment</b>	
Community Safety and Enhancement Programme	\$1,200,000.00
Support to Non-Governmental Institutions (National Security)	\$500,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,700,000.00</b>
<b>Preventive Sub Total</b>	<b>\$391,903,402.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$4,329,024,016.00</b>

**Appendix XIII: Budgeted Allocations for Trinidad & Tobago Social Programmes for Fiscal 2006 (In the Categories of Developmental, Preventative & Remedial)**

Programme	Budgeted Allocations 2006
<b>Developmental</b>	
<b>Budget Allocations for Tobago Social Programmes 2006 (Recurrent Expenditure)</b>	
Community Development and a Peaceful Environment	
CARE	\$3,500,000.00
Assistance to Community Organizations	\$1,500,000.00
Assistance to Cultural Organizations	\$3,600,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,600,000.00</b>
<b>Family</b>	
Foster Care	\$500,000.00
Family First Foundation Nurturing Centre	\$500,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,000,000.00</b>
<b>Education and Skills Development</b>	
Life After School	\$400,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$400,000.00</b>
<b>Youth Development</b>	
Youth Development Programme	\$1,610,000.00
On De Block	\$160,000.00
Building Bridges	\$90,000.00
National Youth Week	\$1,600,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,460,000.00</b>
<b>Social Inclusion</b>	
Social Services and Prison Integrated Network Spirit	\$500,000.00
Grants to Necessitous Persons	\$800,000.00
Life After School	\$400,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,700,000.00</b>
<b>Sustainable Livelihoods</b>	
REACH	\$800,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$800,000.00</b>
<b>Developmental Sub Total</b>	<b>\$14,260,000.00</b>
<b>Remedial</b>	
<b>Community Development and a peaceful environment</b>	
Small Grants	\$3,000,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,000,000.00</b>
<b>Social Inclusion</b>	
Golden Age Adolescent Partnership Programme	\$500,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$500,000.00</b>
<b>Remedial Sub Total</b>	<b>\$3,500,000.00</b>

**Appendix XIII: Budgeted Allocations for Trinidad & Tobago Social Programmes for Fiscal 2006 (In the Categories of Developmental, Preventative & Remedial)**

Programme	Budgeted Allocations 2006
<b>Preventative Family</b>	
Children and Family Services Programme (includes Domestic Violence and Family Surveillance Programmes)	\$375,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$375,000.00</b>
<b>Poverty</b>	
Tobago School Feeding	\$26,902,800.00
Tobago House of Assembly	
Support to Non-Governmental Institutions	\$1,843,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,745,800.00</b>
<b>Health and Wellness</b>	
Tobago Drug Council and Alcohol Drug Abuse & HIV/AIDS Prevention Programme (includes Tobago Health Promotion Clinic)	\$14,500,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,500,000.00</b>
<b>Preventative Sub Total</b>	<b>\$43,995,800.00</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$61,755,800.00</b>

