

ANR Robinson International Airport Signing Ceremony
Tuesday 28th January 2020

ADDRESS BY HON. COLM IMBERT, MP, MINISTER OF FINANCE

ANR ROBINSON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TOBAGO

CONTRACT SIGNING CEREMONY

UPGRADE OF EXISTING AIRPORT TERMINAL BUILDING

AND CONSTRUCTION OF NEW TERMINAL BUILDING

CROWN POINT, TOBAGO

JANUARY 28, 2020

Hon. Sen. Rohan Sinanan, Minister of Works and Transport and his Staff

Hon. Shamfa Cudjoe, Minister of Sport and Youth Affairs and MP for Tobago West

Hon. Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and MP for Tobago East

Hon. Kelvin Charles, Chief Secretary, Tobago House of Assembly

Other Members of the House of Assembly and Management of the Assembly

Chairman, Board and Management, Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

Chairman, Board and Management of the National Infrastructure Development Company

Leader Elect, PNM Tobago Island Council

Other Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

As you are aware, Tobago continues to strive to be a top international tourist destination.

To help achieve this goal, the main point of international entry, the ANR Robinson International Airport, has to be upgraded. In its current configuration and condition, it is not up to the required standard to support the tourism development thrust of the House of Assembly and/or the Government.

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, desirous of promoting the continued development of Tobago is providing the island with a new and modern international airport terminal with sufficient capacity and level of service to support its tourism development. The project will comprise the development of a new terminal building and associated airside and landside infrastructure, whilst maintaining the operation of the existing terminal building during construction of the new terminal. It was also deemed necessary to adopt measures to improve the current service level of the existing terminal building for ongoing domestic and cargo operations and any future operations.

To accomplish this very important project, the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, engaged the National Infrastructure Development Company Limited (NIDCO) for the construction of the new terminal building at the ANR Robinson International Airport. The project includes airside and landside infrastructure, and upgrades to the existing terminal. NIDCO, an agency of the Ministry of Works and Transport, is working alongside the Airports Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (AATT), the Trinidad and Tobago Civil Aviation Authority (TTCAA) and the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) to execute this project. The Ministry of Finance has been given the responsibility by Cabinet to be the Client Ministry in order to facilitate all that is required to drive this important project, which, apart from the construction work, involves a complex process of land acquisition and considerable financing.

The beneficial outcomes from this Project include:

- A state-of-the-art passenger terminal area, including a new terminal building, at the site provided, with capacity to serve a minimum of 3 million passengers in its first phase of development.
- Provisional facilities in the current terminal area that allow for the improving of the existing service level of the domestic and cargo operations in the current airport. These temporary facilities must be in operation six months after signing the contract.
- Design to employ modern building techniques, for energy efficient and environmentally friendly operation and also respecting the architectural and landscape style of the island of Tobago.

Looking at the project in a bit more detail, I am advised that the Main New Terminal Works are for a Contract Period of 24 months, with 4 months for detailed design, and 20 months for construction.

The Scope of Works includes:

1. A new terminal building, including more floor space for concessions including retail/duty-free and food and beverage
2. Airside infrastructure - ramp, aircraft parking space for up to three A330 jets, two 747 jets and four ATRs, and two new taxiways
3. Car park and drop off/pick up
4. Terminal building equipment including security equipment and passenger boarding bridges, and covered walkways for boarding ATRs (weather protection)

When completed, our new airport facility will be able to boast of these Special Features:

- LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Certification
- International Air Transport Association (IATA) Level Optimum design
- Fully compliant with International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) standards
- Capacity of 3M passengers per year (3 times the capacity of the existing airport)

However, we felt that while the new terminal is being built, it is essential to upgrade the existing Terminal at Crown Point, particularly for domestic (local) passengers, to provide much needed enhancements and modern features.

The contract for the Upgrade Works, has been estimated to take 6 months, 1-month for detail design and 5 months for construction, in which, the domestic airbridge operating areas will be expanded and fully refurbished.

The Scope of Works for the upgrade will entail:

1. Expanded and refurbished domestic arrivals and departures areas
2. Fully enclosed and air-conditioned security line area
3. New VIP/Diplomatic lounge
4. Upgraded curb side pick-up and drop off area
5. Extended roof cover for weather protection
6. Additional terminal building equipment, including security equipment and baggage carousel

When these upgrades are completed, the airport will have a modular design, able to be quickly and easily reorganised for future use as a cargo and private jet terminal (just like the old Piarco Airport terminal) and an increased passenger processing capacity and improved passenger comfort.

China Railway Construction (Caribbean) Company Limited, which submitted the only compliant bid, which was evaluated and tested for value-for-money, has been selected as the Contractor for both parts of the project due to their proposed designs, experience and expertise in airport design and construction.

With respect to land acquisition for the Main Project, the State is in the process of acquiring 53 acres of land between Store Bay Local Road and the ANR Robinson International Airport perimeter fence, in the Bon Accord Area. In this process

- A consultant, ACQ and Associates, has been approved to negotiate and settle with property owners on behalf of the State

- A Land Acquisition Policy has been approved by Cabinet.
- 130 property owners have been served Section 4 Legal Notices allowing the State to enter.
- Negotiations will begin with property owners continue. Once negotiations are completed, residents will be compensated in a timely manner.
- Claims which cannot be settled within the approved budget will be transferred to Commissioner of Valuations for further negotiations.
- Property owners are encouraged to apply for advance payment of compensation as soon as possible, under the Land Acquisition Act, the State will pay 80% of approved property value prior to any negotiation or settlement. Balance of negotiated settlement will be paid once property is handed over to the state.
- All compensation from the Ministry of Finance will be monetary.
- Financing in the sum of \$300 million has already been raised by the Ministry of Finance for the land acquisition. The actual amount to be paid will be determined upon completion of the process, but I am advised that this sum is more than adequate

Relocation/New Lands

- As a social amelioration measure, the THA has given the option to the affected residents of purchasing 199-year land leases at deeply discounted rates.
- For this purpose, the THA has allocated lands at Shirvan Road for residential purposes, lands at Cove Estate for commercial purposes and lands at Courland for agricultural purposes.
- Development works have commenced for the residential development at Shirvan Road and the commercial development at Cove Estate.

Ladies and gentlemen, the upgrade of the existing terminal building and the construction of a new terminal building in Tobago has been long outstanding. It has been deferred, delayed and postponed on numerous occasions over the last 20 years.

In closing, I would like to refer to my 2020 Budget Speech, in which I said:
“The roll-out of the new terminal building at the ANR Robinson International Airport in Tobago will consolidate the tourism sector as a catalyst for economic transformation. It will accommodate increasing tourism arrivals, catalyse the upgrade of hotels and guest houses and stimulate investments in new hotel plans.”

This project is a promise kept, and I am proud to be a part of the Government that is responsible for the current and future development of Tobago and Trinidad. As our slogan goes, we are ***getting it done*** as we aspire and achieve together.

It is my pleasure to be here today in our beautiful sister island for the signing of the contracts for both the upgrade of the existing airport terminal building and the construction of the new terminal.

Thank you