



THE PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP REPORTING TO YOU  
**AN ERA OF CARING**  
HAS BEGUN

MAY 2011

A REPORT OF THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF  
THE PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP ADMINISTRATION

## MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE PRIME MINISTER

ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PEOPLE'S PARTNERSHIP GOVERNMENT 2010 / 2011



*The Honourable Prime Minister  
of The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar*

One year ago the People's Partnership was elected as the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Since that historic day the Government has been working assiduously to improve the quality of life of all citizens. In the past twelve months we have been able to change the tone of the national political and civic discourse from one that was combative and adversarial to one that is conciliatory and understanding. We have done this by changing the paradigm of governance from one that speaks first and listens after, to one that consults with all citizens and stakeholders.

In the last year we have succeeded in changing the face of Government from one that was distant from the people, to one that is accessible to all. Our Ministers are on the ground and working. The Government has delivered on the establishment of the Ministry of the People, which has facilitated the closing of the gap between the Government and the citizens, has deepened participatory democracy and has taken social services to every corner of the country.

The Government is also committed to providing citizens with a safe and secure country and has made combating crime its highest priority. In the past year we have brought to Parliament a robust anti-crime legislative agenda that included the Anti-Gang Bill, the Bail Amendment Bill, the Firearms Amendment Bill, the Evidence Amendment Bill and, the Miscellaneous Provisions (Kidnapping and Bail) Bill.

In appreciation of the hard work of the Police Service, the Government agreed to the payment of a non-taxable Special Allowance of \$1000 to all serving officers. Steps have also been taken to increase the human resource capacity of the Police Service, which would see the doubling of the number of graduates of the Police Training Academy. The Government has adopted a holistic approach to dealing with crime and appreciates that we must also treat with the social causes of criminal behaviour and deviance. In this regard, in April of this year retired American General Colin Powell launched the National Mentorship Programme which aims to provide a support system for youths.

In the past twelve months, despite the economic turmoil being experienced in Europe and other parts of the world, we have managed to stabilize our economy and position it for sustainable growth through an emphasis on reduction in wasteful spending and fiscal prudence. The Government has also engaged the local private sector and has placed this important group at the centre of economic development.

These policies have begun to have effect and we have started to see a reduction in the rate of inflation, a return to economic growth and increasing investor confidence. Government is also

committed to harmonious industrial relations and in this regard, we were pleased to successfully conclude negotiations with the PSA.

The Government recognizes that the production of food is pivotal to our economic well-being as it has consequences for inflation and our food import bill. To boost our output of agricultural produce, the Government has distributed land to the former workers of Caroni 1975 Limited and has completed 300 water ponds that will ensure farmers have a secure water source during the dry season, which will enhance food security. Work has also been done to upgrade fishing depots throughout the country.

Human development is one of the top priorities of the Government. To prepare our young people to live and compete in the global economy we delivered on a campaign promise to provide every Form One student in the high school system with a laptop. We have also turned the sod for the commencement of work on the University of the West Indies campus at Debe in South Trinidad. This will increase the percentage of citizens accessing tertiary education. One of the achievements of which I am most proud is the establishment of the Children's Life Fund. This too was a campaign promise. The Government established the Children's Life Fund and legislation to give effect to the fund was passed in Parliament. The Children's Life Fund means that no child in Trinidad and Tobago will ever die for lack of financial resources.

Government also views a well-developed and efficient infrastructure as critical for national economic competitiveness and productivity. In the last year we have completed the dualling of the Churchill Roosevelt Highway in East Trinidad. This project had languished for the last six years. In mid 2011 work will commence on the San Fernando to Point Fortin Highway which had been promised for some 40 years. Once completed, this Highway will reduce the time and cost of transport from San Fernando to Point Fortin. This will have a significant impact on the quality of life of the people who live and work in the southwestern peninsula of the island. The Government has also endeavoured to deal with the supply of water to citizens through the upgrade of WASA's infrastructure which would reduce losses through leaks. Work has already commenced on the Navet Trunk Main and a range of WASA infrastructure projects are carded to start in 2011 throughout the country.

This is but a snapshot of the achievements of the Government in the last 12 months. The last twelve months have been a period of stabilization and consolidation that have set the platform for the next four years. We look to the future with great hope and anticipation as we navigate Trinidad and Tobago towards growth and transformation that will redound to the benefit of all citizens.

Since the People's Partnership assumed office one year ago, most of the policies and plans which we promised have begun to take shape, all because of your willingness to trust and partner with us in changing the way our Nation is governed. We have begun on a path of renewal from despair to hope, poverty to prosperity and vision to reality. With heartfelt gratitude, we celebrate the genesis of this transformation with you.



## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Increased the minimum wage from \$9.00 to \$12.50. The increase in the minimum wage benefits thousands of citizens in the service sector and improves their standard of living.
- Increased public servants' wages by 5%, ending a long period of negotiation. The conclusion of negotiations with the PSA demonstrated the Government's commitment to the collective bargaining process and industrial relations harmony.
- Established the Children's Life Fund. This guarantees that in Trinidad and Tobago, no child will ever die for lack of financial resources.
- The Government has stabilized the national economy and put it on a path to growth. Headline inflation in March 2011 declined for the third consecutive month to 9.4%. Increasing confidence in the economy has also been reflected in the Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange where the Composite Index was up by 7.5% for the first four months of 2011.
- Passed the Interception of Communications Bill.
- Provided more than 20,000 laptops for Form One students.
- Established a Ministry of the People.
- Increased Old Age Pension - *as of September 2010, a total of 52,790 senior citizens are benefiting from the \$3,000 per month.*
- Increased State grants - details of these increases are contained inside.
- Distributed lands to 610 former Caroni workers - *promised by the PNM when they closed down Caroni 1975 Limited in August 2003. A further 600 workers are scheduled to receive their lands in May 2011.*
- Compensated farmers for flood-related damages in record time - *in the past under the PNM, farmers had to wait years to receive compensation.*
- Appointed a Police Commissioner - *prior to that the country had an Acting Police Commissioner for almost two years.*
- Initiated payment of a non-taxable Special Allowance of \$1000 to all serving officers of the Police Service.
- Banned the use of cell phones while driving by amending the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Mobile Devices) Regulations.
- Processed over five hundred and fifty (550) Certificates of Comfort (COCs) in one year with 267 distributed in December 2010. A further 300 COCs will be distributed in May 2011.
- Increased prize money for winners of Chutney, Soca and Calypso Monarch competitions.
- Activated Green Fund after it had been dormant for almost a decade. This will greatly benefit the environment as monies would be made available to NGOs for environmental protection, enhancement and rehabilitation projects.
- Introduction of new routes for the PTSC including San Fernando to the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine. This makes it easier for UWI students to access the St. Augustine campus.
- Launched workforce assessment centres - this will facilitate the certification of persons such as masons, carpenters and electricians etc.
- WASA, in March 2011, issued a bond for \$1.3 billion for water projects that will increase the quality and reliability of water supply.
- Completed dualling of the Churchill-Roosevelt Highway from O'meara to Santa Rosa that had been languishing for six years. This has brought relief to thousands of citizens who live in the East.
- Completed the Aranguez overpass and related infrastructure - this has reduced traffic congestion on the Churchill-Roosevelt Highway.
- Approved \$750 million for road repair throughout the country.
- Awarded contracts to construct the \$430 million interchange at Grand Bazaar.
- Sod-turning for the San Fernando to Point Fortin Highway. Work on the highway will commence in mid-2011.
- Sod turned for the start of construction of the University of the West Indies at Debe.
- Commenced work on the Navet Trunk water main, which is 29 kilometres long - *this was promised by the PNM since 2005 and never done.* This line will be commissioned in May 2011.
- Approved a US\$2 billion investment for an ammonia downstream derivative plant. This plant will produce Melamine Urea Formaldehyde (MUF) that can be used by local manufacturers to produce adhesives and other products.

- Approved the construction of an integrated university campus for Tobago. This facility will house COSTAATT, UTT and the UWI.
- Renamed the Crown Point International Airport, the ANR Robinson International Airport in honour of the former President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.
- Carnival 2011 was widely hailed as the best Carnival ever.
- Turned the sod for the aquatic centre in Mucurapo, the National Cycling Velodrome in Mount Hope and the National Tennis Centre in Tacarigua.
- Turned the sod for an \$11 million dollar facility for the Disabled.
- Turned the sod for the Shiva Boys' High School.
- Introduced a Praedial Larceny Squad to work with the police in reducing the theft of farmers' produce.



## ENABLING HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

- Approved 100 acres of State land for the construction of a south campus at Debe. The south campus is expected to be the flagship Faculty of Law. It is anticipated that by August 2013 some 450 students will be accommodated in the new campus.
- Distributed laptops to students entering high school. This is in keeping with a People's Partnership Manifesto promise that "IT-based learning will be infused in education at primary and secondary levels to support and complement other forms of teaching, learning and basic research."

- Launched the student laptop programme, eConnect and Learn at the Success Laventille Secondary School. eConnect and Learn policy and guidelines were distributed to students, teachers and parents.
- Launched the eCAL ICT in Education Innovative Award in collaboration with Microsoft. This programme is a competition for educators to create ICT-based lesson plans for use with laptop computers.
- Continued The GATE programme. For the period May to November, 2010 the number of applications exceeded 35,000 and the amount disbursed totalled \$214 million. During the election it was said by the PNM that the People's Partnership would stop the GATE programme. The Gate programme has not only continued but the Government has approved \$16 million to facilitate expansion of the programme to include Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).
- Continued the Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP). For the period May to November, 2010, the total number of loans approved exceeded 1,500, and the amount approved totalled \$32.4 million.
- Reduction in the reports of criminal activity against UWI students living in and around the St. Augustine campus due to mobile police posts, joint UWI police / TT police patrols and installation of CCTV.
- Launched the *ttconnect express* in November 2010. This is a bus service that provides government services to rural communities. The *ttconnect express* and *ttconnect mobile* were adjudged the Caribbean Association of National Telecommunication Organizations (CANTO) project of the year for 2010.
- Introduced a dedicated PTSC bus service from San Fernando to the University of the West Indies at St. Augustine.
- Launched mobile phone applications for the fishing industry. Users will have access to fish prices, first aid tips, maps and personal tracking devices, an SOS application and a camera application.

- Launched the People's Band for Carnival 2011 to encourage more widespread participation in Carnival and stimulate local costume production.
- Increased prizes for first place for the year 2011 to \$2 million for four competitions; the Panorama final, Calypso Monarch final, International Soca Monarch final and the Chutney Soca Monarch final.
- Launched the National Youth Mentorship Programme. The programme promotes volunteerism and mentorship to encourage youths to adopt positive values. This programme was launched by distinguished international icon retired United States General Colin Powell who is also a former Secretary of State.
- Approved the construction of an integrated university campus for Tobago. This campus will house COSTAATT, UWI and UTT and will provide Tobagonians with a wide range of tertiary level academic programmes.
- For the first time since the Health Sector Reform Programme of the 1990s, Service Level Contracts (Annual Service Agreements) were signed with all Regional Health Authority (RHA) Boards. These contracts hold the RHAs accountable for achieving performance targets set by the Government.
- Thirty-six (36) elite athletes have received \$4.47 million in assistance under the Elite Athlete Assistance Programme (EAAP) to facilitate their nutritional, transportation, training and physiological needs in preparation to participate in international and regional championships. Plans are in place to revisit this Policy to consider the accommodation of team sports, non-Olympic Sports and sub-elite athletes.
- The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs disbursed over \$6.8 million in financial assistance to 34 National Sporting Organisations and SPORTT disbursed more than \$25 million to the 14 National Sporting Organisations under its ambit, between the period May 25, 2010 to present, in support of their development programmes to increase

participation in respective sports as well as to provide opportunities to improve performances at the international stage.

- Disbursed over \$3.3 million to more than 200 sport clubs, community sport leagues and sport-serving organisation to facilitate the hosting of community sporting events, sporting competitions/tournaments and sport-recognition ceremonies.
- The Ministry of Education established a Task Force on school violence.
- The Ministry of Education launched the National Student Hotline for at-risk students.
- The Ministry of Science Technology and Tertiary Education launched the Workforce Assessment Centres. These centres will assess various skills including cosmetology, food preparation, welding, electrical, IT, plumbing, masonry and carpentry and will certify accordingly.
- New YTEPP training centres are planned to be opened in Las Lomas, Freeport, Biche, Tabaquite, Waterloo and Canaan (Tobago).
- New Metal Industries Company training centres will be opened in Canaan, Tobago and in Waterloo in Central Trinidad.
- Proposed expansion of COSTAATT into Tunapuna, Chaguanas, Sangre Grande, Penal and Princes Town.
- The Ministry of National Security launched the Cadet Force Unit in Secondary Schools in May 2011.
- The Ministry of Community Development opened the La Gloria Community Centre.
- Turned the sod for the Shiva Boys' High School.
- The Ministry of Arts and Multiculturalism commenced infrastructure development at the historic Naparima Bowl, Queen's Hall, Women's Prison Library and regional libraries.
- The Ministry of Arts and Multiculturalism initiated the development of policies for the creative sector, multiculturalism and National Archives.

## PROMOTING SOCIAL JUSTICE



- Established and passed legislation for the Children's Life Fund (Act 12 of 2010) to provide funding for children needing life-saving, tertiary-level healthcare services. This historic legislation ensures that no child who is a citizen of Trinidad and Tobago will die for lack of financial resources.
- Increased the minimum wage from \$9.00 to \$12.50.
- Increased public servants' wages by 5%, ending a long period of negotiation. The agreement will also increase public servants' quality of life, by providing them with housing, greater insurance coverage etc.
- Announced the construction of the country's first Baptist school. The St. Barbara's Baptist Primary School is expected to accommodate 450 pupils.
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs facilitated the simplification of the process for the application and granting of visas to travel to Saudi Arabia for the annual Hajj. Prior to this intervention, citizens of Trinidad and Tobago desirous of attending Hajj in Saudi Arabia, had to travel to Caracas to make Visa arrangements.
- Established a Ministry of the People and Social Development to improve the delivery of Government services to the people of Trinidad and Tobago. This was a campaign promise that has been implemented. The People's Partnership Government was praised by the United Nations for the establishment of a Ministry of the People.
- Increased old age pension to \$3000. This increase in old age pension is commensurate with the People's Partnership vision for a better standard of living for our senior citizens. As of September 2010, more than 52,000 senior citizens are benefiting from the \$3,000 per month. This advanced payment structure also allows a number of our senior citizens to enjoy a combined income of \$4,000. This is because persons who already have an income will receive a senior citizens' pension which makes their total monthly income a total of \$4,000 per month. More than 20,000 senior citizens now benefit from a combined monthly income of \$4,000.
- Targeted 6,500 housing starts in 2010-2011. The Housing policy of the People's Partnership will focus on:
  - The differently able
  - Housing the low and middle income and
  - Reduction in cost of homes.
- Approved eighty-four (84) long standing applicants who have applied for 14 or more years, and who have satisfied the eligibility criteria as outlined by the social housing policy. These eighty-four applicants represent 1,948 cumulative years of waiting for housing from the Government's social housing programme. Their years of waiting range from fourteen years to forty years.
- The Ministry of Housing and the Environment processed over five hundred and fifty (550) Certificates of Comfort (COCs) in one year with 267 COCs distributed in December 2010. A further 300 COCs will be distributed in May 2011.
- The Ministry of Housing and the Environment opened offices in two geographically strategic locations in Ste. Madeleine and Couva to service members of the public in rural areas.
- The Ministry of Housing and the Environment delivered approximately 450 serviced lots in Bon Air, Arouca.

- The Ministry of Housing and the Environment completed infrastructural upgrade works in Cashew Gardens. More than 130 families benefitted.
- Conducted a survey of squatter sites to collect data that will support the development of programmes which can be developed to better serve some of the poorest citizens.
- Reintroduction of the “Land for the Landless” program aimed at reducing poverty by targeting disadvantaged citizens in society and creating equity.
- The Ministry of Housing and the Environment handed over 54 homes to needy families in May 2011.
- Granted leases of two-acre plots of land to 610 former employees of Caroni 1975 Limited. These former workers had been waiting seven (7) years for this land that was promised by the former Government when they shut down Caroni 1975 Limited in August 2003. A further 600 former employees will receive their lands in the month of May 2011.
- Signed the U.S.-Caribbean HIV/AIDS Partnership Framework document. This is an important step forward in combating HIV/AIDS.
- Increased State grants given by the Ministry of the People and Social Development.
  - **Housing grant** - to purchase building materials for the construction/repair for homes - increased from \$10,000 to \$15,000.
  - **Household items grant** - to purchase furniture and appliances - increased from \$4,500 to \$6,000 (accessed only once in a three-year period).
  - **Medical Equipment grant** - in order for persons to receive wheelchairs, commodes, special beds and other similar items - increased from \$6,000 to \$7,500.
  - **Domestic Help grant** - Part-time domestic help for three months to clients who are unable to perform

normal household chores and are unable to afford the cost of domestic assistance - increased from \$1,600 to \$1,800 per month for a 3-6 month period.

- **Funeral grant** - has been increased from \$3,450 to \$7,000.
- **Special child grant** - for parents who are unable to financially provide for their special child - the grant was recently reviewed and a Public Assistance grant will be given.
- **The Pharmaceutical grant** - allows persons not enrolled in the CDAP Programme to get their medicine - increased from \$900 for a three-month supply to \$2,500.
- **The House Rent grant** - for persons who are unable to temporarily pay their rent or those in need of new accommodation - increased from \$4,500 to \$7,500 for a three-month period.
- **The School Supplies grant** - disburses a sum of \$500 per child (to a maximum of four children) which can be accessed by the parents whose school books and other school supplies have been destroyed by fire, flood or other natural disasters - increased to \$1,000 when the child is in secondary school and to \$750 for primary school children.
- **The Education grant** - increased from \$300 to \$500 per child per month.
- **Housing Assistance grant** - for those whose homes have been affected by natural disasters, there was an increase to \$20,000 and \$10,000 for damaged basic household items.
- Launched the Rio Claro Social Services Centre. This will bring social services to areas in the South East.
- Launched the Telecentre in Tunapuna and the Mediation Centre in Cunupia.

- Turned the sod for the centre for persons with disabilities in Couva.
- Farmers were compensated in record time for loss of their crops as a consequence of the severe flooding that took place in June 2010.
- Launched the Utilities Assistance Programme (UAP) on the 8th December, 2010. The Programme is designed to provide financial assistance to lower income persons who are customers of WASA and T&TEC.
- Secured a US\$50 million (TT\$320 million) loan from the IDB to assist in the Neighbourhood Upgrading Programme (NUP). The loan will cover programme administration, squatter regularisation, family subsidy for home improvement and new housing, sector and institutional strengthening, financial costs and credit commission. The NUP will impact more than 25 sites throughout the country and benefit more than 50,000 people.



## RESPECTING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

- Issued letters of award for waste water facilities in the following areas:
  - Carlson Field, Chaguanas
  - Edinburgh South
  - La Fortune, Point Fortin
  - East Grove, Curepe
  - Pier Road, La Brea
  - Maracas, St. Joseph

The total cost of the above mentioned projects is \$50 million and they impact more than 3,000 homes.

- Expanded the “Colour me Orange” and the CEPEP programmes. The employment level in CEPEP rose from 6,000 in 2010 to over 11,000 to date. Over 5,000 new jobs were created.
- Changed the evaluation criteria for all new downstream energy projects to be based on stringent environmental standards.
- Appointed Committee to Develop National Hydrocarbon and Chemical Spill Contingency Plans for Trinidad and Tobago.
- Activation of the Green Fund, which contains \$2.2 billion. As a result of activation it will finally be open to application by community groups, NGOs, and THA organisations for environmental projects and work.
- Legislated a range of fiscal incentives aimed at stimulating the use of renewable energy and compressed natural gas in Trinidad and Tobago. These incentives were part of the 2010/2011 National Budget.
- Appointed a Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Task Force to oversee the increase in the use of CNG as a transport fuel in Trinidad and Tobago.
- The Ministry of Local Government has:
  - Completed an Implementation plan for the enforcement of the Litter Act.
  - Invited proposals for the development of an Integrated Solid Waste Management Policy.
  - Established five Disaster Relief Warehouses through a newly formed NGO, the Trinbago Emergency Network Team or TENT.
  - Completed a Draft Disaster Management manual.
- Launched the CEPEP Marine programme to protect our natural environment in coastal areas.
- Allocated \$20 million to combat the Red Palm Mite that has ravaged the coconut industry.
- Initiated the revitalization of the Cocoa Industry. Agricultural development forms the critical plank in the economic diversification thrust. To this end seven farms were selected to begin the cultivation of cocoa and 180 acres of land were rehabilitated for the growing of cocoa.

## PROMOTING GOOD GOVERNANCE – OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY

- Held Local Government elections, that were due since 2006 and had been postponed on several occasions by the former PNM Government.
- Coordinated training for induction and orientation for newly elected councillors and Local Government Representatives.
- Established the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) Steering Committee. This committee will chart the way forward by reviewing the EITI implementation plan and making recommendations for the approval of Cabinet. The EITI seeks to strengthen governance by improving transparency and accountability in the extractives sector and move Trinidad and Tobago into the designation of Comprehensive Revenue Transparency. This was a manifesto promise of the People’s Partnership.
- Commenced a forensic audit of Petrotrin’s Gasoline Optimisation Programme (GOP) and Gas to Liquids (GTL) projects. Both projects were initiated under the former PNM regime and have experienced significant cost over-runs, slippage in schedule and litigation being brought against Petrotrin.
- Commenced a forensic audit of the University of Trinidad and Tobago.
- The Office of the Attorney General established Commissions of Inquiry into the 1990 Attempted Coup and into Clico and the HCU. There have been repeated calls for a Commission of Inquiry into the 1990 attempted coup for the past 20 years.
- Launched the E-Voice Reporting Facility in the Ministry of Public Utilities, designed for stakeholders of the Ministry to confidentially lodge complaints or issues that they may have encountered with transacting business with the

Ministry or its agencies. This will increase transparency and accountability within the Ministry.

- Passed the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago Amendment Bill.
- Passed the Electronic Transactions Bill.
- Established a Joint Select Committee to consider and report on Legislative Proposals for Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property and the repeal and replacement of the Central Tenders Board Act. This JSC will report to Parliament in May 2011.

## SOUND ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT

- Stabilized the economy and put it back on a growth path after the worst global financial crisis since World War II.
- Secured a window of financing of US\$1.3 billion (TT\$8.2 billion) over the next three to five years for Trinidad and Tobago’s development needs.
- Held and completed competitive bid rounds for offshore blocks that are in shallow and average-depth water in 2010 and for deepwater offshore blocks in 2011.
- Signed four Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) for exploration in shallow and average-water depths.
- Amended the fiscal regime governing the oil and gas industry to promote a more investment-friendly environment for new exploration activity and for mature and small oil and gas fields. These changes were made effective by the Finance Act 2010.
- Entered into an agreement with Venezuela for the unitization of cross border reserves that lie in the Loran-Manatee gas field, which contains about 10 trillion cubic feet of gas. This huge gas field straddles the Trinidad-Venezuela maritime boundary.

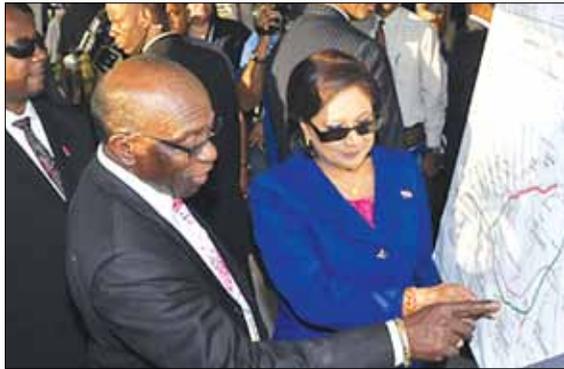
- Hosted national energy policy consultations in San Fernando, Port of Spain, Sangre Grande and Tobago. These consultations will form the basis of the National Energy Policy.
- The Ministry of Trade and Industry inaugurated TTbizlink, the Government's flagship initiative to improve the ease of doing business in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Approved a US\$2 billion ammonia urea melamine (AUM) complex, which would see MHTL constructing its second ammonia urea melamine plant. The project entails the construction of world-scale facilities, with nine separate plants. The complex will produce 1,850 tonnes per day of ammonia, which will be used to produce:
  - 3,000 tonnes per day of urea
  - 90 tonnes per day of melamine
  - 750 tonnes per day of ammonium sulphate
  - 30 tonnes per day of melamine urea formaldehyde resin (MUF)
- The Ministry of Planning established the National Transformation Unit.
- The Ministry of Planning established and appointed the Economic Development Board headed by Mr. Kenneth Gordon.
- The Ministry of Planning established a National Innovation Council headed by Dr. Bhoë Tewarie.
- The Ministry of Planning launched the national census.
- Passed the "Anti-Gang" Bill, 2010 and the Bail Amendment Bill, 2010 – these bills make provision for the suppression of associations created for unlawful or criminal purposes and for the better protection of the public.
- Passed the Firearms Amendment Bill, 2010 – this bill amends the Firearms Act to increase the penalties for certain offences involving a firearm or any prohibited weapon, as defined by the Act.
- Passed the Miscellaneous Provisions (Remand) Bill, 2010 - this bill increases the period in which a Magistrate can remand an accused person with regard to both summary and indictable matters. This will have the effect of reducing the frequency of court hearings thus reducing the time and cost involved in taking prisoners to and from court.
- Introduced the Evidence Amendment Bill. This bill seeks to revive the common law doctrine of recent complaint. The bill also proposes to extend the use of video-recorded evidence to encompass all criminal proceedings and to allow for the admissibility of the video-recorded statements of both accused persons and witnesses, even where witnesses are absent at the trial.
- Introduced the Trafficking in Persons Bill, 2011 – this bill provides the legislative framework to suppress and punish trafficking in persons, especially women and children.
- Banned the use of cell phones while driving by passing the Motor Vehicles and Road Traffic (Mobile Devices) Regulations 2010.
- Initiated payment of a non-taxable Special Allowance of \$1000 to all serving officers of the Police Service.
- Established the Private Security Network Commission (PSNC) to transmit relevant information for appropriate law enforcement action to the Police Service, through a dedicated communications network, consisting of the more than 20,000 additional pairs of 'eyes and ears' from fourteen (14) accredited private security companies.
- Recruited a new Police Commissioner and Deputy Police Commissioner. The Police Service had been in an untenable situation where there was an Acting Commissioner for an extended period.
- For the very first time in the history of allocations in the Appropriation Bill in the Police Service was afforded the autonomy of its own budget, and the Commissioner of Police was appointed Accounting Officer of the Police Service.
- Regularization of SAUTT and the SIA. In an effort to regularise and position these Agencies to effectively support strategic and tactical operational responses, the Government took the decision to: establish a Steering Committee to oversee the restructuring of SAUTT, review the operations of SAUTT, make recommendations and report to the Minister of National Security on the outcome of the review, with such recommendations to be submitted for the consideration of Cabinet; and undertake a comprehensive audit of the SIA and its operations.
- Increased Human Resource Capacity in the Police Service. For the period 2006-2009 approximately 211 new Police Officers graduated from the Police Academy Induction Programme. Today, the Academy has almost doubled that figure with up to 390 graduating for the period 2009-2010. With the new intake model and plan implemented by the PP, that figure will be doubled to approximately 800 graduates annually.
- Introduced a Praedial Larceny Squad that will work with the Police to combat praedial larceny.

## PROVIDING A SAFE AND SECURE COUNTRY

### Significant crime-fighting laws and policy initiatives

- Established 13 surveillance bays on the Uriah Butler and Sir Solomon Hochoy Highways. These surveillance bays will increase the police presence on the country's major highway and will lend to enhanced management of road safety and detection of criminal activity.
- Passed the Interception of Communication Bill, 2010 – this bill provides a legislative framework for the interception of communication.

## IMPROVING NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE



### Ministry of Works and Transport

- Turned the sod for the highway from San Fernando to Point Fortin. This highway was promised *ad nauseam* by the PNM regime from 2002 to 2010. The highway to Point Fortin will lead to greater economic development and the creation of new economic space in the south west peninsula. Work on the highway will commence in mid-2011.
- Completed the dualling of the Churchill-Roosevelt Highway from Omera to Santa Rosa Heights after this project had languished for six years.
- Completed the Aranguéz Overpass and related infrastructure at a cost of \$161 million, \$25 million less than the original projected cost. The new overpass reduces traffic congestion along the Churchill-Roosevelt Highway.
- Completed the El Socorro North Access Roads – this reduces traffic congestion in the El Socorro / Aranguéz area.
- Turned the sod for the commencement of works on the Couva/ Preysal Interchange. This will solve a serious problem that has impacted the residents of Couva and the Point Lisas Industrial Estate.
- Turned the sod for the addition of an additional lane with paved shoulder nine kilometres long from Chaguanas to Radio Beacon.
- Completed the Maraval Access – this entailed the widening of Saddle Road and work on the intersection of Long Circular and Saddle Roads.
- Commenced upgrade of the Scott's Road Network – the Scott / Mendez network runs from Penal Rock Road onto Scott's Road, Mendez Trace, Kay Trace, Penal Quinam Road onto SS Erin Road.
- Commenced upgrade of Goodman Trace in Penal. This road is 4700 metres in length and runs from Latchoos Road in Penal onto Penal Rock Road.
- Commenced work on the St. Helena Bypass Road Project. This project will alleviate traffic congestion in St. Helena, Piarco and Kelly Village.
- Implemented new traffic scheme for the Endeavour Interchange. This initiative has greatly reduced the traffic congestion that citizens were forced to endure at this Interchange.
- Opened up the Priority Bus Route to allow all private registered vehicles carrying a minimum of three persons to have access to the PBR between specified hours. This initiative lends to greater utilization of the PBR and an efficient use of energy resources.
- Restored the Mt Pleasant Bridge, Mt Pleasant, Arima, which had broken down for over 20 years.
- Commissioned a \$22 million runway instrument lighting system at the Crown Point airport, to replace a non-directional beacon system. This improves the level of safety for aircraft to land at the airport in any type of weather and should result in a greater number of flights coming to the sister isle.
- Allocated \$21 million to install high tension cable barriers on the medians of the country's highways. This will improve road safety and will save lives.
- The PTSC launched three new routes which are now available to all commuters to service communities in East Trinidad; these are the Chaguanas/Talparo, Arima/Four Roads Tamana/La Seiva and Port-of-Spain/Wallerfield routes. These routes will provide needed transportation to commuters in these rural areas at a cost of \$4.00 per trip.
- The PTSC introduced new routes to the deep South constituencies of Siparia, Oropouche West, Oropouche East and Fyzabad. The people of Siparia, Quinam Rock Road, San Francique, Massahood Junction, Morne Diablo and Barrackpore will benefit from these services.
- Re-opened Pluck Road in Woodland – 8 kilometres of road were repaved.
- Concrete works to be undertaken in Couva North on Joyce Road and Roopsingh Road, Joyce Road Extension South, Joyce Road Extension North and Sinaswee Street.
- Allocated \$430 million for interchange at Grand Bazaar.
- Awarded contracts to construct the \$520 million interchange to connect the Churchill-Roosevelt Highway to the Uriah Butler Highway. This will lead to the removal of the traffic lights between Kay Donna and Grand Bazaar junctions which will greatly alleviate the traffic situation in the area.
- Approved \$750 million to repair roads throughout the country, including \$30 million for San Fernando East, \$5 million for Diego Martin West, and \$13 million for Diego Martin North/East. The largest allocation of \$44 million will be in the Moruga/Tableland constituency. The sums of \$16 million, \$23 million, \$25 million, \$28 million, \$5 million, \$11 million, \$21 million and \$29 million have been allocated to road repairs in the constituencies of Arima, Caroni Central, Cumuto/Manzanilla, Diego Martin central, Laventille East/Morvant, La Brea, Mayaro and Naparima respectively.
- Planned construction of four Licensing Offices throughout the country.



- The PTSC increased its Bus Fleet through maintenance and repair. Around August 2010, the PTSC had an average of 190 buses on the road. As at today's date there are approximately 307 buses on the road.
- The PTSC introduced free use of its Deluxe Coach service to pensioners and persons in receipt of Government grants.

#### **Ministry of Public Utilities**

- Wiring of 500 houses completed at a cost of \$6.17 million. 12 water pipeline projects under the NSDP completed at a cost of \$3.24 million. 4 community electrification projects have been completed at a cost of \$176,000 with 10 community recreation grounds lit at a cost of \$7.5 million. 70 sanitary plumbing projects completed at \$3.33 million.
- Commenced work on the rehabilitation of the Navet Trunk main – 29 km of water main that is the main conduit serving south and central Trinidad. This was promised by the PNM five years ago and never implemented. This line will be commissioned in May 2011.
- Secured \$1.3 billion bond to finance the upgrade of critical WASA infrastructure.
- 32 recreational facilities identified for illumination by T&TEC.
- Commissioned the Talparo water treatment plant.
- Installation of bulk power transmission lines and sub-stations in various stages of completion in part to bring power northwards from Trinidad Generation Unlimited in La Brea.

#### **Ministry of Local Government**

- Continued the Market programme which includes the construction of the San Juan Market. The sod was turned for the San Juan market by the UNC in its last term in Government but little or nothing was done in the last 8 years by the former Government.
- Work ongoing on the construction of a berm located north of the Churchill-Roosevelt Highway from 7th Street to Servol Life Centre.
- Completed a Recreation Facility at Sixth Company, Moruga.

- Completed Play Parks at Samaan Drive and Lime Boulevard Santa Rosa, Emperor Boulevard, Bon Air, Nairn Avenue and West Park, South Cocoyea.
- Development works ongoing by Palo Seco Agricultural Enterprises Limited (PSAEL) on three recreation facilities and six drainage projects.
- Approval received for construction of Siparia Market and outfitting of the Chaguanas Borough Corporation Administrative Complex.
- Development work ongoing by the Rural Development Company in 22 communities. This work includes constructing 38 box drains, 25 box culverts, 24 curbs, 20 slipper drains, 29 road rehabilitation and reconstruction projects, 15 sidewalks, 1 outfall drain, 6 culverts and 50 driveway reconstructions.



#### **Ministry of Education**

- Twenty-two early childhood education centers to be handed over to the Ministry of Education by the Education Facilities Company during the period April 2011 to August 2011. (The Clarke Rochard Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Centre in Penal was handed over on May 5, 2011).
- The sod was turned for an annex to be constructed at the overcrowded Balmain Presbyterian School, Couva, to be built at a cost of \$3.6 million. The work is expected to be completed in two months time.
- Four primary schools to be completed in 2011. These include primary schools at Penal Rock Road, Palo Seco, Enterprise and Lengua.

- A further three primary schools will be completed in fiscal 2012. These include Arima New, Monkey Town and Fanny Village.
- Began restoration works at Biche High School, ten years after it was built by the 1995-2000 UNC administration and never reopened by the PNM administration. The school should witness its first intake of students during the upcoming September school term.
- The Education Facilities Company Limited will hand over five high schools in 2011. These include high schools at Marabella, Five Rivers, Couva West, Aranguez and Biche.
- Construction to commence on four new high schools in 2011. These include Siparia East Secondary, Lakshmi Girls', Caroni Village SDMS Boys' and the Shiva / Parvati high schools.

#### **Ministry of Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs**

- Completed 300 water ponds costing \$7.5 million (\$25,000 per pond). This is in keeping with the Government's aim to dig 300 ponds each year over the next three years to ensure farmers have a secure water source during the dry season, which will enhance food security.
- Completed more than 200 kilometres of agricultural access roads. This supporting infrastructure will reduce the cost of producing food and will also increase agricultural output.
- Refurbished the Morne Diablo Fish Landing Site at a cost of \$2 million. Thirteen other sites throughout the country are undergoing similar refurbishment.



### **Ministry of Housing and the Environment**

- Occupied Tower C of the International Financial Centre. This building is part of the waterfront complex which was largely underutilized prior to May 24, 2010. This move reduces the Government's rental bill and saves taxpayers' money.
- Opened the La Horquetta Plaza, completed by the PNM administration four years ago but never opened despite requiring just minor infrastructure works to be finished. The plaza will house 32 stalls and eradicate the need for entrepreneurs to erect informal, unapproved structures in the neighbourhood.

### **Ministry of Health**

- Announced the construction of a hospital in Central Trinidad with a capacity of 220 beds and Point Fortin hospital with a capacity of 100 beds to begin in this fiscal year.
- Approved the purchase of ten new ambulances for the National Emergency Service.
- Undertook major refurbishment of buildings and infrastructure at:
  - Mt. Hope Women's Hospital
  - San Fernando General Hospital
  - Couva District Health Facility
  - Sangre Grande Hospital
  - National Blood Transfusion Service
  - Insect Vector Control Division
- Approved the construction of a National Public Health Laboratory.
- Approved the procurement of a National Health Information Management System. This will be a fully integrated health information system that will include electronic medical records and an electronic patient administration system.

### **Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs**

- Successfully refurbished stadia and hosted Girls' Under 17 World Cup.
- Approximately \$25.4 million was expended on quality maintenance and upgrade of sporting infrastructure, including community swimming pools, indoor sporting arenas, multi-purpose stadia and community sport infrastructure.
- Approved new mega sporting facilities to encourage participation by every citizen in some form of recreational activity. These will cost an estimated \$736 million using a design-build financing arrangement:
  - The National Aquatic Centre at Mucurapo - \$175 million
  - The National Tennis Centre at Tacarigua - \$140 million
  - The National Cycle Track at Mount Hope - \$255 million
  - Three Multi-Purpose Sport Facilities in Charlieville, Couva and Fyzabad - \$165 million.
- Approved the implementation of Phase II of the programme of rehabilitation and upgrade of community and sporting facilities.
- 64 Community Recreation Facilities with the upgrade of 46 of the facilities at an estimated cost of \$132.9 million.
- The rehabilitation and upgrading of 16 Community Sporting Centres at an estimated cost of \$1,044.3 million on a phased basis.

## **POSITIONING FOR THE GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT**

- During the last 12 months, through the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Government has sought to reposition and rebrand Trinidad and Tobago in the context of the wider global economy. Trinidad and Tobago's place in the global village is highlighted by the fact that our Prime Minister is also the Chair of the Commonwealth of Nations.
- Waived the requirement of a Visa for citizens



of India and Russia who are desirous of entering Trinidad and Tobago. This will facilitate trade and tourism with these two emerging economic superpowers.

- Participated in the 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly; the United Nations High Level Plenary Meeting on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); and the Summit of the Alliance of Small Island States, New York. This set the stage for the Draft Resolution on 'Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control', which was co-sponsored by fifty-one (51) states.
- Trinidad and Tobago participated in the 21st Session of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Parliamentary Assembly and the Inter-Sessional Meetings of the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States - European Union (ACP-EU) Joint Parliamentary Assembly, Brussels, Belgium.
- Signed an agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Switzerland on the Promotion and Reciprocal Protection of Investments.
- Provided direct assistance to countries in the Caribbean impacted by hurricane Tomas. In this regard, the Prime Minister led a relief effort to St. Lucia.
- Participated in the Commonwealth Economic Partnership Forum (delegation led by the Honourable Prime Minister and included the Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs), during the period 12 to 15 October 2010, in London, United Kingdom.

- Attended Commonwealth Week in London, England in March 2011. This visit provided key networking opportunities between Trinidad and Tobago business leaders and their UK counterparts and Government representatives from throughout the Commonwealth.
- Led a highly successful trade mission to Brazil in April 2011 that focused on exporting Trinidad and Tobago's energy services and local energy service companies partnering with Brazil's booming oil and gas industry. During this trip the Honourable Prime Minister addressed the World Economic Forum and held discussions with EMBRAPA a Brazilian agricultural institute and the largest Brazilian oil company Petrobras.
- The Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs represented Trinidad and Tobago in a number of international energy institutions including the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), the World Petroleum Congress and OLADE the Latin American Energy Organization.

“In the last year we have succeeded in changing the face of Government from one that was distant from the people, to one that is accessible to all”.

*The Honourable Prime Minister of  
The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar*

