



CARING ABOUT



YOU TODAY AND



TOMORROW

THE 2010 MANIFESTO OF THE PNM



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It gives me great pleasure on behalf of the People's National Movement to present to you the Manifesto of the PNM for the forthcoming 2010 General Election.

Our programme for the next five years is based on our Vision to make Trinidad and Tobago a developed country on or before the year 2020, and on the work we have done over the last 8 ½ years to lay a solid foundation for the attainment of this Vision. We are already well on the way towards achieving our developmental agenda and in many areas, such as the development of the energy sector, financial and economic stability, industrialization, infrastructure development, higher education and training, job creation, social programmes, poverty reduction, housing, health care and public transportation, we are well ahead of our 2020 timelines and targets. Our record speaks for itself and we are of the view that no other Government except a PNM Government in the history of Trinidad and Tobago has been able to achieve so much in such a relatively short space of time.



from
THE POLITICAL LEADER THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
PATRICK MANNING

As we continue the transformation of Trinidad and Tobago into a developed country and develop the concomitant capacities and capabilities of our people, it is with appropriate respect and understanding that we recognize how much more needs to be done to realize our goal of developed nation status by 2020 and to create the just and caring society that the people of Trinidad and Tobago are capable of.

can all work together in unison in the interest of all citizens, Let us demonstrate the spirit of caring and commitment to social justice which makes us as a country and a people truly great. Let us leave no one behind in our march forward, as we seek to provide for all our citizens the material basis for a life of dignity, progress, happiness, prosperity and respect.

Our 2020 objectives can only be realized through a symbiotic and mutually beneficial relationship between the people and the government and to this end we are committed to renewing our efforts in our next term towards reforming our system of Government to allow full and meaningful participation in the national development process by all citizens of our beloved country.

As we move closer and closer towards developed country status, I ask that we all do so with love for each other, and with compassion, tolerance and respect for all of our citizens, regardless of class, financial circumstances, colour or ethnic background.

We in the PNM believe that all men and women are created equal in the sight of God and are thus entitled to equality of treatment and equal access to the resources of this great country. We believe in the principles of fellowship and fraternity, in one people living in harmony and we believe that we

I firmly believe that our 41 candidates representing the PNM in this most important Election satisfy the essential criteria of trustworthiness, integrity, competence and commitment that are required of elected representatives. As the leader of the PNM team, I am steadfastly committed to ensuring that we provide the necessary experience, skill, talent and energy that is required to achieve our Vision for Trinidad and Tobago





PEOPLE'S NATIONAL MOVEMENT

CANDIDATES

2010 GENERAL ELECTION



Patrick Manning
SAN FERNANDO EAST PNM



Laurel Lezama-Lee Sing
ARIMA PNM



Alicia Hospedales
AROUCA/MALONEY PNM



Joseph Ross
BARATARIA/SAN JUAN PNM



Sheila Madoo-Kurban
CARONI CENTRAL PNM



Harold Ramoutar
CARONI EAST PNM



Mustapha Abdul Hamid
CHAGUANAS EAST PNM



Ronald Heera
CHAGUANAS WEST PNM



Nal Ramsingh
COUVA NORTH PNM



Anthony Khan
COUVA SOUTH PNM



Darryl "Japs" Mahabir
CUMUTO/MANZANILLA PNM



Karen Nunez-Tesheira
D'ABADIE/O'MEARA PNM



Dr. Amery Browne
DIEGO MARTIN CENTRAL PNM



Colm Imbert
DIEGO MARTIN NORTH EAST PNM



Dr. Keith Rowley
DIEGO MARTIN WEST PNM



Joel Primus
FYZABAD PNM



Fitzgerald Jeffery
LA BREA PNM



Nadra Nathai-Gyan
LA HORQUETTA/TALPARO PNM



Donna Cox
LAVENTILLE EAST/MORVANT PNM



NiLeung Hypolite
LAVENTILLE WEST PNM



Neil Parsanlal
LOPINOT/BON AIR WEST PNM



Clifford Campbell
MAYARO PNM



Faiz Ramjohn
NAPARIMA PNM



Christin Ramdial
OROPOUCHE EAST PNM



Heather Sedeno
OROPOUCHE WEST PNM



Paula Gopee-Scoon
POINT FORTIN PNM



Christine Kangaloo
POINTE-A-PIERRE PNM



Patricia McIntosh
PORT OF SPAIN NORTH/ST ANN'S WEST PNM



Marlene McDonald
PORT OF SPAIN SOUTH PNM



Anwarie Ramkissoon
PRINCES TOWN PNM



Augustus Thomas
MORUGA/TABLELAND PNM



Junia Regrello
SAN FERNANDO WEST PNM



Vidya Deokiesingh
SIPARIA PNM



Joanne Thomas
ST ANN'S EAST PNM



Dr. Balchandra Sharma
ST AUGUSTINE PNM



Kennedy Swaratsingh
ST JOSEPH PNM



Farouk Mohammed
TABAQUITE PNM



Gizel Thomas-Roberts
TOBAGO EAST PNM



Terrence Williams
TOBAGO WEST PNM



Eric "Pink Panther" Taylor
TOCO/SANGRE GRANDE PNM



Esther Le Gendre
TUNAPUNA PNM

WE'RE CHANGING T&T FOR YOU...STAY THE COURSE

A BRIEF HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Eight and a half years after the historic 18-18 PNM victory in 2001, followed by the decisive 20-16 victory at the polls in 2002 and a third emphatic 26-15 electoral victory in 2007, Trinidad and Tobago is well on the way to achieving the hallmarks of a developed country in a not too distant 2020.

Social programmes available to senior citizens and the disadvantaged are unprecedented in the region. Public Service Reforms continue to enhance the business environment. Road system improvements, modern accommodation for public servants and other working citizens, and our artistes, have redefined both our skyline and quality of life. Drafting of legislation to facilitate effective and participatory local and central Government, and constitutional reform, is well advanced. The PNM Government which took up office in 2007 was able to build on the reforms carried out since 2001, which improved the level of service to the people. The global environment changed dramatically during this period but the PNM Government distinguished itself.

Maintained and expanded health care, education, social services, public transport and national security initiatives and services despite worsened financial circumstances triggered offshore

Increased the balance in our Revenue Stabilisation Fund, which now stands at \$19.5 billion

Managed to maintain affordable food prices even as the world reeled under global food inflation



Reduced inflation on a year-on-year basis from 11.7% in February 2009 to 4.8% in February 2010

Created the conditions for the resumption of growth in GDP in Trinidad and Tobago in the fourth quarter of 2009, by 0.8%, despite the worldwide recession and economic contraction in most developed countries, including in Europe and Japan



Maintained stability in our exchange rate

Significantly improved the quality and capacity of our road network



Initiated large scale food production that is already delivering high quality food at competitive prices



Successfully hosted the 5th Summit of the Americas and the Commonwealth Heads of Government meetings and so established Trinidad and Tobago as a significant partner in world affairs, and a leader in the region



Ramped up the delivery of affordable housing for low income earners

Broadened the range and quality of public transport options to include a high grade and reliable water taxi service between our major cities and a luxury coach service and a modern air conditioned bus service on over 115 routes throughout the country

Increased our score on Human Development Index (HDI) of the United Nations, which is a measure of the quality of life in a country, from an HDI of 0.802 in 2001 to an HDI of 0.837 in 2007, and climbing

Experienced growth in the tourism industry, saving the jobs of the thousands who service this area, even as a worldwide recession crippled tourism in the region

Acquired a range of new military assets to assist in the fight against the international drug trade and crime, including offshore patrol vessels, fast patrol craft, interceptors, armed helicopters and radar systems





VISION 2020



Our Vision – Developed Country Status by 2020

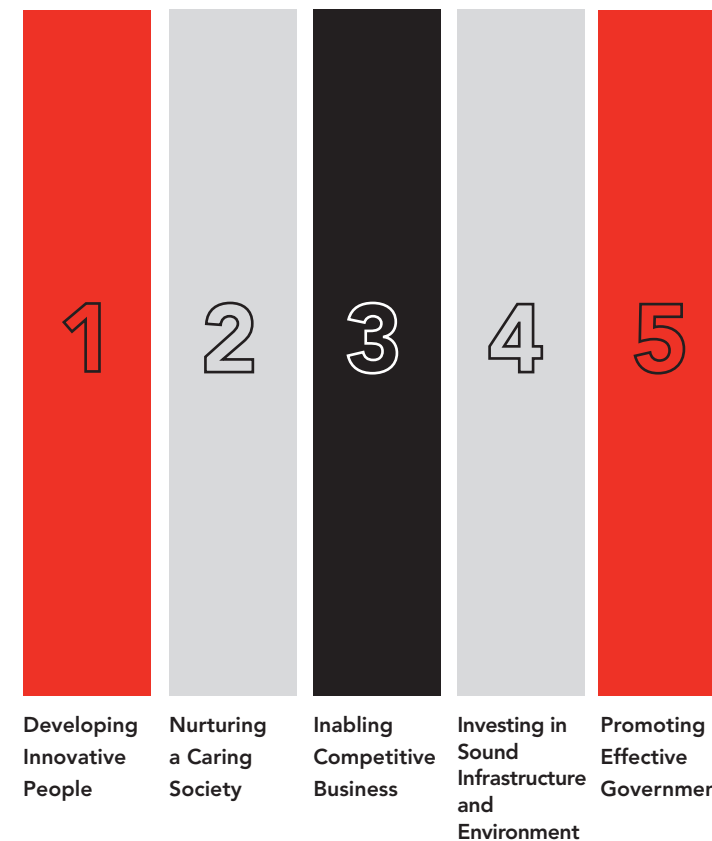
In 2002, the Vision 2020 Planning Committee was appointed, to spearhead the preparation of a National Strategic Plan.

A united, resilient, productive, innovative and prosperous developed nation

With a disciplined, caring, fun-loving society

Comprising healthy, happy and well-educated people and built on the enduring attributes of self-reliance, respect, tolerance, equity and integrity

To achieve this Vision, we focus on 5 Development Pillars:



WE ARE THE ONLY POLITICAL PARTY IN THE HISTORY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO THAT HAS EVER ARTICULATED SUCH A COMPREHENSIVE AND FAR-REACHING VISION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY.

In the context of Vision 2020, the PNM Government has carefully designed our social programmes to allow recipients to be included in the wider economic activities of the nation. These include:

- an enabling environment for large, medium and small businesses to be competitive, both locally, regionally and internationally.
- a very wide range of free education and training opportunities for citizens to advance themselves and help make Trinidad and Tobago a developed nation on or before the year 2020.
- a comprehensive housing programme to increase the number of our citizens owning their own homes.

Under the PNM, using these 5 pillars, all Government Ministries and State Agencies are mandated to develop policies and programmes to achieve our Vision of developed country status on or before the year 2020. Progress is measured by Vision 2020 Status Reports and Operational Plans, prepared and developed every 3-4 years.

With these social programmes and services, citizens who were previously excluded from the wider national development programs and activities now have a greater chance to advance and be included.

The Committee comprised representatives from all the major segments of the society including the public and private sectors, labour, academia and civil society as well as international development agencies.

28 Sub-Committees, comprising over 600 individuals, were established to undertake the preparation of subject-specific reports and to engage in discussions on national development issues.

Thousands more citizens were engaged in a process of consultation. In the end, over 80 such consultation exercises were effectively undertaken to produce the Vision.

Consistent with our Vision 2020 objectives, the PNM is unwavering in its determination that by the year 2020, Trinidad and Tobago shall be:

In which:

All citizens are assured of a sound, relevant education system tailored towards the needs of a modern, progressive, technologically advancing nation	There is respect for the rule of law and human rights and the promotion of the principles of democracy
Every citizen has equal opportunities to achieve his/her fullest potential	Optimum use is made of all the resources of the nation
All citizens enjoy a high quality of life, where quality healthcare is available to all and safe, peaceful, environmentally-friendly communities are maintained.	The diversity and creativity of all its people are valued and nurtured.
The family as the foundation of the society contributes to its growth, development and stability	





MALONEY
GOVERNMENT
EARLY CHILDHOOD
CARE AND EDUCATION CENTRE

OUR ACHIEVEMENTS, PROGRAMMES AND POLICIES

The Macro-economy

- Since December 2001, almost 85,000 sustainable net new jobs were created; increasing the total number of employed persons from 514,100 in 2001 to 598,200, or almost 600,000, in 2009, the highest ever figure in the country's history. At the same time, the unemployment rate, on an annual basis, was reduced from 10.8 percent in 2001 to 5.0 percent in 2009, close to the lowest annual unemployment rate on record of 4.5%, which was achieved in 2008.
- The poverty level was reduced significantly during the last 9 years
- The rate of personal income tax was reduced to a flat rate of 25 percent in 2006. At the same time, the personal income tax allowance was increased to \$60,000 per year, which removed 300,000 income earners from the tax net
- VAT and customs duties were reduced or eliminated on a large number of food items to address the rising food prices
- The rate of corporation tax was reduced to from 35 percent to 25 percent in 2006
- Foreign direct investment in Trinidad and Tobago exceeded US\$12 billion by 2009
- The progressive and enlightened policies of the PNM Government enabled growth in our country's Gross Domestic Product from \$55 billion in 2001 to \$144 billion in 2009, with GDP peaking at \$163 billion in 2008, or three times the 2001 figure
- Prudent fiscal management enabled a significant reduction in both the public and external debt ratios. Our Debt to GDP ratio fell from 55% in 2001 to 31% in 2009, with a low of 25% in 2008. Our Gross External Public Sector Debt fell from 20.1% of GDP in 2001 to 7.8% of GDP in 2009, with a low of 5.8% in 2008, which was well below the majority of countries in the world, including both developing and developed countries
- Our net foreign reserves increased more than five-fold, from US\$1.8 billion (TT\$11 billion) in 2001 to over US\$10 billion (TT\$63 billion) in 2009, peaking at US\$11 billion (TT\$70 billion) in February 2009, representing almost one year of import cover in 2009, well above the global average
- A Heritage and Stabilization Fund was established in 2007 to help cushion the impact of declining revenues during periods of economic downturn and to provide a heritage for future generations. Despite the difficult global economic circumstances of the last year, we did not touch this Fund in 2009. Today, savings in the Heritage and Stabilization Fund amount to TT\$19.5 billion, or US\$3.1 billion. We intend to increase this Fund to TT\$30 billion over the next five years

EDUCATION: THE PATHWAY TO A SECURE FUTURE



OUR VISION IS TO DEVELOP WELL ROUNDED INNOVATIVE INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL BE SOCIALLY INTEGRATED AND ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AS A RESULT OF A SOUND AND CAREFULLY DESIGNED EDUCATION SYSTEM

The PNM Government has continuously improved our strong tradition of educational excellence, initiated with the advent of the PNM in 1956, by designing and implementing a modern and relevant education system that fashions the young minds of our nation into creative and critical thinkers. Through our equitable and innovative programmes, we have ensured that every citizen gets an opportunity to attend school, and to improve his or her social and economic status. Some of our education objectives include:

- Expansion of our Early Childhood Care and Education Programme.
- Refurbishment and upgrade of existing schools and construction of new schools where required.
- Equipping and outfitting of schools with modern equipment, information and communication systems.
- Revision of the Primary and Secondary school curriculum.
- Teacher development and training.
- Testing and certification.
- Integrated student support services including the provision of nutritious meals, books and transport.

What have these interventions done for you?

Over 280,000 students in Early Childhood Education Centres (27,500 students), Primary Schools (140,000 students) and Secondary Schools (115,000 students) are assisted by the policies and programmes of the PNM Government every day, as follows:

- **Expansion of Early Childhood Care and Education Programme** - Students aged three to four years old are exposed to a stimulating learning environment, where well trained teachers create well adjusted children, able to function at the primary school level both academically and socially.
- **Refurbishment, upgrade and construction of schools** – Under the PNM, over 400 schools have been repaired or upgraded and 30 new schools constructed. Next term will see the completion of 20 new secondary schools, as well as a number of new primary schools, and 600 Early Childhood Education Centres.
- **Equipping schools with modern information and communication systems** – Over 400 schools have been provided with modern ICT infrastructure and other equipment that makes learning easier and contributes to the goal of increased computer literacy among our citizens. This process will continue.
- **Revision of the Primary and Secondary school curriculum** – A modern and relevant curriculum has been developed to address both foundational learning as well as creative thinking. Curriculum reform will continue.
- **Teacher development** - A well trained cadre of teachers has been produced to impart life skills to our nation's children and to motivate them to achieve their personal best in the pursuit of the highest levels of educational excellence. This programme of training will be accelerated in the next term.
- **Integrated student support services** – Barriers to achieving academic excellence have been removed, through the provision of free meals, free books, free transport and counselling. Through the progressive and caring policies of the PNM, approximately 300,000 students per year benefit from these free public education support services. This student support system will be deepened and strengthened during our next term.

MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER TO BUILD OUR NATION THROUGH FREE AND FLEXIBLE ACCESS TO TERTIARY EDUCATION

OUR VISION IS TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT THAT ENCOURAGES OUR PEOPLE TO PURSUE HIGHER EDUCATION AND BECOME RESPONSIBLE ENLIGHTENED CITIZENS MOTIVATED TO CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Your PNM Government has created a free tertiary learning environment that is unequalled anywhere in the world, and has made the pursuit of tertiary education in Trinidad and Tobago attractive, accessible and affordable, with academic qualifications that are internationally recognized. Under the caring hands of the PNM, no person is denied the opportunity to further their studies, regardless of their status. The Ministry of Science, Technology and Tertiary Education and its agencies, such as the University of the West Indies (UWI), University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT), Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute (THTI) and the College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT), have contributed to this objective. They have expanded their programmes, creating a diverse portfolio and various modes of teaching, including on-line, distance, part-time, open campus, and evening programmes. This diversity in programming seeks to widen access to citizens at varying stages of life and work. The PNM Government has made access to higher education totally flexible and affordable to all.

Some of the innovative higher education programmes of the PNM include:

PNM Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses Programme (GATE)	Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP)
Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT)	Scholarship Programme

What have these interventions done for you?

Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses Programme (GATE) – This Programme ensures that all of our citizens can access tertiary education despite personal financial constraints. This initiative can be regarded as the “GATEway” to tertiary education for all, so that *“no-one shall be left behind”*

The PNM recognizes that for our country to progress, more and more of our citizens must be encouraged to improve their knowledge and skills through higher education. The number of persons enrolling in higher education programmes in Trinidad and Tobago has increased fivefold since 2001, almost 45% of our student population is now pursuing higher education, up from about 9% in 2001. Consistent with our Vision, our target for tertiary education enrolment is 60% of the population, which we expect to achieve long before the year 2020. Since its inception in 2004, over 275,000 applications have been approved for GATE at a cost in excess of TT\$2.5 billion, which we consider to be money well spent. GATE affords access without the burden of tuition fees. And for the related costs, such as accommodation, airfare, living expenses, book, special equipment and so on, there is **HELP**.

Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) - This is a special loan facility made available to students at approved tertiary institutions. One of HELP’s objectives is to develop a well educated, qualified cadre of citizens within areas identified as critical under Vision 2020. Since inception, over 8,000 persons have received loans under HELP.

Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago – ensures access to the highest quality of education, recognised nationally and internationally, through a process of registration, accreditation and recognition. The Council safeguards the nation’s investment in tertiary education and makes GATE-assisted private tertiary education providers accountable and transparent.

Scholarship Programme – rewards excellence and facilitates further the pursuit of tertiary education for outstanding, well rounded young people. Under the PNM, over 400 of our brightest and best students are awarded scholarships every year, with hundreds more receiving bursaries.

Building our nation: Widely accessible, flexible and affordable tertiary education has a central role in nation building through the following:

- Development of human capital and entrepreneurship and access to education for **ALL**, so that there are no limitations to what any citizen can achieve.
- Ensuring that all our citizens attain highly recognized programmes of education.
- Development of an appreciative and responsible citizen who participates in and helps to sustain a nurturing and caring society.
- Nurturing of enlightened, motivated people to become innovators and entrepreneurs to drive manufacturing, business enterprises and public institutions to first world levels of product and service delivery.

HEALTH

The PNM is committed to building for Trinidad & Tobago a health care delivery system that is modern, efficient, people-centred and comprehensively customer-based. Significant strides have already been made in this regard within the last eight years and we will continue with the same vigour.

The transformation of the health care sector will continue to focus on the development of nine core dimensions: Leadership; Institutional strengthening; Skill development and availability; Infrastructure and Services of which the Hospital Strategy is critical; Information and Communication Technologies; Quality Service; Key Stakeholder Commitment; Sustainable Financing; and Continuous Development and Improvement.

Ensuring equity and universal access to health care is a key public policy of the PNM and to achieve this, we will:



- Strengthen our primary health care network in a sustainable manner. Since 2001, the PNM Government has been building the infrastructure to achieve a world class health system. Over the past two years in particular, we have completed 14 new primary health care facilities, which will take us to the 2015 target by the end of 2010! Our construction programme is complemented by our mobile health caravans in rural communities, thus ensuring fair and equitable access for all. We have established voluntary testing, counselling and treatment for HIV/AIDS patients nationally and strengthened the immunization, maternal and child health care programmes. School children are now the beneficiaries of vision and screening tests in addition to the provision of hearing aids if required. Our health care programmes include:

Point-of-Care Testing	Health Education Programmes
Human resource development	Institutional strengthening
Clinical programmes	

What have these programmes done for you?

- **Initiation of Point-of-Care Testing.** A new initiative of the PNM is the provision of point-of-care testing which will allow diagnostic test results to be given to doctors within half an hour, thereby enhancing patient management. This is being rolled out nationally.
- **Acceleration of our Health Education Programmes.** This PNM Government has received positive international recognition for the Port-of-Spain Declaration on Non Communicable Diseases (NCDs). We have introduced Caribbean standards for Diabetes, Asthma and Hypertension into the management of our Chronic Disease Programme, as well as a multisectoral Advisory Committee on Non Communicable Diseases. We have successfully passed and implemented the Tobacco Control Act. We have a policy on healthy eating and have engaged the major stakeholders in promoting a healthy lifestyle. In the next 5 years we will specifically focus on establishing healthy public policies on issues such as workplace wellness, smoking cessation, healthy foods, and violence and injury prevention, while deepening and widening our school health programme.
- **Human resource development programmes** for the public health sector, geared towards attracting and retaining local talent and continuously training local resources to better serve the needs of the population. Progress in this area has already been achieved through bursaries/scholarships, seminars, workshops and conferences, as well as technical assistance from the Pan American Health Organization. So far we have increased the number of nurses trained to almost 2,000, and raised the intake of medical interns by 156%.

- **Institutional strengthening**, with emphasis on accountability and performance measurement for the Ministry of Health and the Regional Health Authorities.

A Five Year Business Plan is in place for the transformation of the Health Sector from 2008 to 2013. Training and organizational development activities and an IT plan for the development of Health Information Systems are also ongoing. We have invested \$65 million in computer hardware for the public health sector, which will lead to new positive experiences in health care delivery.

- **Build and strengthen our clinical programmes, including:**

Chronic Disease Assistance Programme (CDAP)

through which citizens are provided with medication free of charge for the treatment of several diseases, including diabetes, hypertension, cardiac disease, depression, glaucoma and others. 575,000 people have benefitted from our free medication (CDAP) service up to the end of 2009, with 255 participating pharmacies, 51 drugs available, and 11 chronic diseases covered.

Adult Cardiac Programme, developed to assist those unable to afford cardiac procedures. In 2009 alone, almost 1,000 free cardiac procedures were performed.

School Health Programme, through which over 13,000 students received hearing screening and 30,000 students received vision screening.

Free Surgery Programme, which has reduced the backlog of patients and has significantly reduced the waiting time for surgery. The programme includes cataract surgery, fibroid embolization, orthopaedic surgery, prostate surgery, kidney stone removal, haemorrhoid removal, and knee and hip replacements, as well as diagnostic procedures such as Echocardiograms, CT-Scans, Angiograms, X-Rays, Ultrasound and MRIs.

Medical Aid programme, which provides financial assistance to the elderly, children and other financially challenged persons. In 2009 alone, medical aid grants were given to over 2,000 persons. Access to modern cancer treatment for hundreds of our citizens is also provided through this programme.

Renal Dialysis programme, providing life saving services at both public and private institutions. A contract has been awarded to a private hospital to build, operate and transfer two 200-bed dialysis centres, in North and South Trinidad.

Organ Transplant Programme, which is accessed every year by hundreds of people. In 2009 alone, 14 kidney transplants and 31 surgical fistulae access for haemodialysis were performed.

- **Oncology programme** – The National Radiotherapy Centre has been modernized and now provides radiation and chemotherapy services to our cancer patients. The National Oncology Centre, which is to be located at Mt. Hope, is out for tender.

The PNM will capitalize on these achievements and work assiduously on its key long term priorities for the health sector, including:

A 10-Year National Hospital Construction Programme.

New hospitals will be built in Arima, Sangre Grande and Point Fortin. The Port of Spain General Hospital will be rebuilt and two new hospitals will be established from the reorganization and conversion of the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Centre. A new San Fernando General Hospital will be constructed at a new location along the Solomon Hochoy Highway, to serve South and Central Trinidad.

The EHealth Card. A key enabler of the NHS is the eHealth card. This card will give users access to a secure online system, containing patient demographics, accounting information and medical records. The introduction of the eHealth card will be pilot tested in Siparia, St. Joseph, St. James, Morvant, Oxford Street, San Fernando, Chaguanas and Canaan, Tobago and with a continuous roll out thereafter.

The National Health System. The PNM Government will commence the implementation of its National Health System within the next 5 years. The State will maintain financial responsibility for the provision of an essential basket of services to all citizens and ultimately every citizen will be able to exercise their choice of health care provider, whether in the public or private sector.



SOCIAL SERVICES

OUR VISION IS TO CONTINUE TO ERADICATE POVERTY AND CREATE A MORE EQUITABLE INCLUSIVE SOCIETY

Under successive PNM Governments this nation has experienced improved delivery of social services to vulnerable citizens. The PNM, through a careful understanding of our society, has sought to improve the quality of life of citizens on the margins due to illness, disabilities, social circumstances and poverty. The PNM Government has embarked on a series of social sector interventions.



Food Support - Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (TCCTP)

Establishment of Social Displacement Centres

Poverty Reduction Programme

Social Services Grants, including Senior Citizens' Grants

What have these interventions done for you?

TACKLING POVERTY

- The Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (TCCTP) aims to eradicate poverty by offsetting the effects of high food prices among the poorest members of society. Further, its conditions encourage recipients' family members to pursue personal development and to ensure that their children's wellbeing and education are given priority. The TCCTP was launched in 2006 and since then, over 32,000 persons have benefited.

- **The Establishment of Social Displacement Centres**, including those at Piparo and at Riverside Plaza, Port of Spain, has created safe and civilized spaces for the socially displaced and has reduced the number of these persons returning to live on the streets.

- **The Poverty Reduction Programme** aims at helping families to emerge from a life of poverty permanently. Relevant community based projects are assessed and monitored through the 14 Regional Social and Human Development Councils (RHSDC) in each of the municipal areas of the country.

- **The Micro Enterprise Training and development Grant (MEG)** assists needy clients – including victims of domestic violence, probationers and welfare recipients - to undertake small business ventures or engage in skills training. The Programme also provides grants to Community Based Organisations (CBOs) to conduct skill development projects to carefully targeted individuals.

- **The Micro Enterprise Loan Facility (MEL)** is available to persons who have accessed the MEG and require additional assistance to invest in their micro-enterprise to help grow and sustain their business venture.

- **The Multipurpose Community Based Telecentres** provide training and are used for a number of purposes such as research, and social networking and e-mailing activities that are important to sustainable micro businesses.

- **The Social Services Grants** seek to assist underprivileged members of society, by providing financial support to citizens who are unable to earn a living, persons who are unable to work or have little means of financial support and guardians of children with special needs. Such programmes include Public assistance, Disability assistance and Senior Citizen's Grant (Old Age Pension). These funds go a long way to ensure these families eat nutritious meals daily and have basic needs met.

- **The Senior Citizen's Grant** (formerly the Old Age Pension) provides relief to those of our senior citizens who have limited income or no income at all. Since December 2001, the PNM has increased this Grant by over 200%, from \$800 per month in 2001 to the current level in May 2010 of \$2,500 per month. The latest increase from \$1,950 to \$2,500 per month represents an increase of almost 30%. **Over the last 8 years, we have also increased the National Insurance Pension by 100% from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and increased the combined income from NIS and the Senior Citizens Grant from \$1,800 in 2001 to \$3,550 per month in 2010, or an increase of almost 100%. The minimum public service pension will now also be increased to \$2,500, consistent with PNM policy.** These substantial increases are testimony to the caring nature of the PNM. This will never change.

EQUITABLE SOCIETY

- **Under the purview of the Ministry of Social Development**, the **Disability Affairs** Unit promotes programmes, practices and attitudes which encourage the full inclusion of persons with disabilities (PWDs) in all spheres of life; sensitises the public about issues pertaining to PWDs; and provides technical support for physically challenged persons and their families.

- In 2009, 19 special "accessible buses" were operating in Trinidad and two in Tobago. These buses are specially equipped for the use of and access by PWDs. Additionally, in every regular bus, four seats are reserved for PWDs.

- The minimum wage was enforced in order to further promote equity within our country.

- The disability grant was increased to \$800 per month, with a reduction in the minimum age for recipients to 18 years, and the public assistance grant was increased to \$1,090 per month for a family of 4.



BUILDING OUR NATION

The following is a summary of some of our core social services interventions:

- The Targeted Conditional Cash Transfer Programme (TCCTP), which aims at helping households address vulnerabilities and achieve sustainable livelihoods. For the conditional component of this programme, focus is on building skills and training programmes.

- Social Displacement Centres have been established at Piparo – the New Horizons Centre and in Port of Spain – The Centre for Socially Displaced Persons at Riverside Plaza.

- Beneficiaries of the Micro Enterprise Training and development Grant (MEG) include victims of domestic violence, probationers and welfare recipients.

- Beneficiaries of the Micro Enterprise Loan Facility (MEL) include micro-entrepreneurs, unemployed persons and recipients of Public assistance.



CG15

COAST GUARD

COAST GUARD

CG

NATIONAL SECURITY

OUR VISION IS HAVE A SAFE AND SECURE T&T

The PNM Government of Trinidad and Tobago has embarked on a number of initiatives to ensure that our country becomes a safe and secure place to live, visit, do business in and raise our families.

<p>The Citizens' Security Programme</p>	<p>The Special Anti-Crime Unit of Trinidad and Tobago</p>	<p>The Specialist Crime Academy</p>	<p>The Establishment of a Crime and Problem Analysis Unit (CAPA)</p>
<p>Reducing Gang Violence and Activity</p>		<p>Strengthening the Forensic Science Centre</p>	
<p>The construction of new Police Stations</p>		<p>The introduction of a Border Integrated Management System and Machine Readable Passports</p>	
<p>Improving our Disaster Management capabilities</p>	<p>Commissioning and immediate use of fast patrol vessels</p>		

What have these interventions done for you?

- **The Citizens' Security Programme (CSP)** has as its overall goal to reduce the levels of crime and violence in our country by improving our efforts to prevent, counteract and control factors associated with criminal acts and violence.
- **The Special Anti-Crime Unit (SAUTT)** is currently in its sixth year of operations and continues to focus on three main areas. i. strengthening national forensic capabilities; ii. providing developmental training for law enforcement; iii. lending operational support to the Police Service and other law enforcement agencies.
- **The Specialist Crime Academy** To date, over 500 SAUTT Officers have received training in areas such as Crime Scene Investigation, Forensic Awareness and DNA, Investigative Interviewing and more.
- **The Crime and Problem Analysis (CAPA) Unit** was established in 2007 and continues to improve the capacity of the Police Service to gather accurate and timely information on crime and undertake in-depth analysis.
- **Gang Violence and Activity.** An international **Comprehensive Gang Model** has been applied, leading to computerized information systems and improved analysis and mapping procedures; and to the establishment of a **Repeat Offenders Programme Task Force (ROPTF)**, responsible for identifying street gangs, their membership structures and turf.
- **The Forensic Science Centre** continues to play a significant role. Of critical importance is the installation of a **modern DNA Laboratory**, adding this state of the art methodology to our crime-fighting capacity.
- **New Fire Stations.** To provide effective fire fighting and emergency service to new communities, new fire stations were constructed at Piarco, Sangre Grange and Couva South. The functional requirements of 12 other stations are being finalized in order to commence construction.
- **New Police Stations.** Over the last two years, police presence has been much enhanced by the construction of 5 Police Stations and 3 Police Posts. Moreover, 19 new Stations are scheduled for communities throughout Trinidad and Tobago.
- **The Introduction of an Integrated Border Management System** is equipping nationals with travel documents that reduce exposure to identity and passport fraud. **Machine Readable Passports** have been introduced to ensure hassle free travel. To date over 350,000 citizens have been issued with new Machine Readable Passports. The waiting time for a new passport has been reduced to 12 working days.

- **Disaster Management.** The **Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management** has provided training to relevant partners in such areas as: Damage Assessment and Needs Analysis, Shelter Management, Medical Response, Mass Casualty Management, and Search and Rescue. Its public education campaign continues to sensitize the population on necessary measures in the event of an emergency or disaster.

Dealing with Illegal Drugs and Guns

The PNM Government recognizes that a major concern of our citizens is the levels of crime and violence plaguing our country. But we also need to understand its causes. Our location has made us a trans-shipment point for illegal drugs between the supplier countries of South America and the consuming countries of North America and Europe. To address and eliminate this problem, the PNM Government has taken the necessary steps to stem the flow of drugs and guns into our country – in particular with the acquisition of the following Coast Guard vessels over the last 2 years:

- **6 30-metre Fast Patrol Craft with speeds of over 40 knots;**
- **2 46-metre Coastal Patrol Vessels; and**
- **14 Fast Interceptor Craft with speeds of up to 50 knots**

This brings the total compliment of armed Coast Guard vessels to 28, a 300% increase from when we assumed office in 2001. Now, we can match the speed and manoeuvrability of virtually any vessel that operates illegally in our waters. This is by far the most significant expansion/upgrade in history of the Trinidad and Tobago Coast Guard. And that is not all. The final pieces in our naval arsenal will be the three 3 No. 90-metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) which we have acquired through a Government-to-Government arrangement with the United Kingdom. These vessels each have the capability to carry over 100 men and stay out at sea for several weeks, with a range of several thousand miles. When they are commissioned and put into service, together with our other military vessels and the armed helicopters that are now in production, these sophisticated military vessels will make Trinidad and Tobago virtually impenetrable to drug traffickers.

The first of these OPVs is already undergoing sea trials in the UK and is due to arrive in Trinidad and Tobago in September 2010. OPV 2 is and scheduled to arrive in mid November 2010, and OPV 3 in March 2011.

Further, for the first time in our nation's history, we can now deploy our naval assets based on the 360-degree radar system coverage. Our investment in the Coast Guard has already begun to disrupt the drug flow into the country. For the first quarter of this year 2010 alone, 1,650 kilos of marijuana and 35 kilos of cocaine have been seized, and another 2,750 kilos of dumped marijuana recovered.

The war against illegal drugs and guns will continue in our next term. It represents a major strike against crime in this country. Your PNM Government will not waiver or flinch from these responsibilities.



PUBLIC UTILITIES

OUR VISION IS TO FULLY DEVELOP OUR PUBLIC UTILITY SECTOR TO PROVIDE EFFICIENT, COST EFFECTIVE, QUALITY SERVICES TO OUR CITIZENS

The PNM Government of Trinidad and Tobago has resolved to ensure that the population has access to potable water and an electricity supply in the most efficient and cost effective manner. The Ministry of Public Utilities has already implemented a number of programmes, including;

The Water and Wastewater Master Plan

Rural Electrification Programmes



Expansion of Power Generating Capacity

National Street Lighting Programme



Lighting of Parks and Recreation Grounds



What have these interventions done for you?

- **The Water and Wastewater Master Plan** seeks to **increase** access to water supply, improve leak management and upgrade the wastewater and sewerage systems. At present 95 percent of the population has access to potable water; an increase from 2007 figures. Through the National Social Development Programme (NSDP), WASA was able to bring relief to 77 percent of the targeted communities who were receiving water for less than 3 days per week. WASA has also acquired new leak detection equipment, resulting in a significant decline in the incidence of leaks over the last 3 years.

- **Through the Rural Electrification Programmes**, the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC) was able to significantly increase the number of persons accessing electricity to more than 97 per cent of our population. Under the NSDP, 100 electrification projects were completed during the period 2008 to 2009, which in turn benefited almost 400 households.

- **Expansion of Power Generating Capacity.** T&TEC continues to expand its service in order to facilitate the growing demand for power. T&TEC will increase power on

the national grid by an additional 768MW during 2010. In Tobago, the new dual-fuel 48MW generating plant has been completed and commissioned, bringing our total capacity up to 1,656MW. This will be further increased to 2376MW by 2010/2011 when Trinidad Generation Unlimited (TGU) commissions the 720MW plant that is currently being constructed at Union Estate.

Additionally, T&TEC continues to improve its service to customers. In 2008, T&TEC responded to 25,200 'trouble reports' with an average response time of 2 ½ hours. Moreover, since that time over 14,000 new service connections were made with 96 per cent of these completed in the same day.

- Through the National Street Lighting Programme, there has been a significant number of achievements:
- Over 84,000 new 150W High Pressure Sodium (HPS) streetlights were installed at the end of 2009
- Over 10,000 electricity poles erected
- 50,000 existing 70Watts Street lights upgraded
- 6,500 luminaries (street lights) installed to illuminate 165 km of our nation's highways



The National Street Lighting Implementation Unit also continued work related to the lighting of parks, recreation grounds, public spaces, the grounds of health facilities, police stations and transit hubs.

HOUSING

OUR VISION IS TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR THE CITIZENS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

• It is a matter of record that the current PNM Government's housing construction programme is second to none. The provision of affordable public housing has been a key part of the social development policies of the People's National Movement since 1956. We have provided homes for families in Mt Hope, Mt Lambert, Diamond Vale, River Estate, Malabar, Bon Air Gardens, Couva, Chaguanas, La Horquetta, Morvant, Laventille, Belmont, Port of Spain, Princes Town, San Fernando, and Santa Cruz, to name just some of the areas. Through the Housing Development Corporation, thousands of families have been given quality housing, which they could not have afforded otherwise.

Some of the specific programmes that have been introduced and implemented include;

- The Accelerated High Density Housing Programme
- The Rent-to-Own Programme
- New Home Subsidies
- Housing Grants
- The Second National Settlements Programme
- Community Facilities on Housing Estates

• **The Accelerated High density Programme** was introduced in 2003 in response to the 6-year period of idleness/inactivity in housing construction by the former administration. Since the inception of the Accelerated Housing Program, construction of over 25,000 housing units has commenced. (It is to be noted that the administration of 1996 to 2001 commenced construction on less than 500 houses). Under the PNM, housing units are now located at over 100 sites throughout Trinidad and Tobago. These areas are developed with 'green sites' to accommodate playgrounds, schools and commercial centres.

• **Work continues** on approximately 64 housing project sites with over 6,000 housing units expected to be completed and allocated by June 2010.

• **In keeping with the New Town concept** of creating self-contained housing developments across the country, construction of 1,200 housing units continues at Wallerfield. Three more New Towns are earmarked for La Brea, Princes Town and Chaguanas. The Chaguanas project is almost complete.

• **The Tobago House of Assembly** has been involved in the construction of houses in four areas; Roxborough, Blenheim, Castara and Adventure Estate in Plymouth. To date, a total of 240 houses has been constructed in these areas.

• **The Rent-To-Own Programme** was introduced to assist low income households who, notwithstanding the very low interest rate of 2% interest, are still unable to satisfy the requirements of a mortgage arrangement. The guiding principle of this caring programme is to enable citizens to obtain their own home, starting at a rental rate in the interim, with the long term objective being to purchase your home.

• **New Home Subsidies** are provided to persons who have annual incomes of less than TT\$65,000 and intend to purchase a new home costing less than TT\$195,000. Beneficiaries are given up front subsidies of either TT\$35,000 or TT\$50,000 depending on their income level. In Tobago, this programme is aimed at assisting legal land owners who wish to construct a new home but do not have the funds needed to make a down payment in order to obtain a mortgage with Trinidad and Tobago Mortgage Finance (TTMF).

• **Housing Grants** include the Home Improvement Grant and the Home Improvement Subsidy. The Grant targets households experiencing financial difficulties in generating savings because of lower income. Additionally, the subsidy programme also targets a low income threshold while encouraging and rewarding savings. In fiscal 2009, 695 homeowners received home improvement grants and over 800 qualified for subsidies. Senior citizens and vulnerable families are fast-tracked.

• **The Second National Settlements Programme** is a programme assisted by the Inter-American Development Bank. Since 2002 the Land Settlement agency (LSA) has embarked on a number of projects aimed at regularizing squatting. In 2009, a number of communities, including Factory Road and River Estate, Diego Martin, Bon Air North, Arouca and KP Lands, have begun the process of moving to have title to the lands on which they live.

The LSA has been engaged in improving conditions for families living in informal housing settlements on State Lands, providing basic services and upgrading infrastructure such as roads, electricity, water, drainage and sewer facilities. This is what we mean by taking care of our citizens.

WORKS AND TRANSPORT

OUR VISION IS TO DEVELOP FIRST-WORLD INFRASTRUCTURE THAT EMBODIES THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF QUALITY, AESTHETICS AND FUNCTIONALITY

The PNM Government is committed to providing the nation with a world class infrastructure. The Ministry of Works and Transport has a pivotal role to play in achieving this. Here are some of its many initiatives:

National Highways Programme (NHP)

East/West Corridor Transportation Project – the Interchange

Construction, Management and Maintenance of Roads, Bridges and Highways and Improvement in Road Access

Bus Fleet Renewal Programme (PTSC)

Trinidad Rapid Rail Transit Project



North-South Coastal Water Taxi Service

Government Shipping Services - Fast Ferries

Air Transport Infrastructure Development



Modernisation of the Licensing Office

Modernisation of our motor vehicle and traffic laws

Comprehensive Drainage Development Programme





What have these interventions done for you and what will they do for you in the future?

• **The National Highway Programme (NHP)** . is designed to cater for the upgrading of our road infrastructure through the construction of new highways. Because investing in sound infrastructure is one of our Vision 2020 Pillars, the PNM Government has been spending over 8 percent of our GDP on infrastructure development and we will continue to do so in our next term. Our National Highways Programme is in three phases and involves the construction of a new highway grid, as follows:

PHASE 1

- **San Fernando to Mayaro Freeway**
- **San Fernando to Point Fortin/La Brea Highway**
- **Wallerfield to Manzanilla Highway**
- **Caroni to Piarco Highway, from the Uriah Butler Highway**
- **Port of Spain to Chaguaramas Causeway**
- **Curepe to Princes Town/Rio Claro Highway**

The new highways are being designed to international freeway standards and comprise both new 6-lane carriageways and widening of existing 2-lane carriageways to 4 lanes. Tenders have already been invited from reputable international contractors for the first 3 highways in phase 1. Construction is expected to commence on the first 3 highways before the end of 2010 and the next 3 in 2011. These 6 new highways are scheduled to be substantially complete by the end of our next term.

PHASE 2

- **A First Class Road/Tunnel from Curepe to the North Coast**
- **Sangre Grande to Toco Highway**
- **Blanchisseuse to Toco Highway**
- **Penal to Guayaguayare Highway**
- **Moruga to Princes Town Highway**
- **Manzanilla to Mayaro Highway**

When this new highway grid is complete, no part of Trinidad will be more than 2 hours away from any other part of Trinidad by road. Citizens will be able to travel from Cedros to Toco or Mayaro to Chaguaramas in ease and comfort.

East/West Corridor Transportation Project – the Interchange

• The PNM Government is acutely aware of the significant loss in man-hours and productivity caused by delays on the Nation's highways. Hearing the plight of the people, the PNM Government constructed an **Interchange at**

the Nation's busiest intersection, the intersection of the Churchill Roosevelt and Uriah Butler Highways, (something a previous Government had failed to do in its 6 years in office). The construction of this impressive structure has brought Trinidad and Tobago's highway structure squarely into the 21st century.

• This modernisation continues along the Churchill Roosevelt Highway with the construction of a flyover at Aranguez, now underway at full speed. Its completion will make it possible to drive from Port-of-Spain to San Fernando without encountering a single traffic light. The PNM Government's future plans involve flyovers and overpasses at Valsayn, UWI, Macoya, Trincity and beyond.

Construction, Management and Maintenance of Roads, Bridges and Highways and Improvement in Road Access

Through the **Programme for Upgrading Roads Efficiency (PURE)**, the PNM Government has undertaken over 3,500 road improvement projects at an approximate cost of \$TT 3.7 billion. No area of the country has been, or will be, left out. In addition to the systematic and sustained upgrade of thousands of roads and bridges all over Trinidad and Tobago, some notable projects include;

Widening and upgrade of the Churchill Roosevelt Highway from Port-of-Spain to Trincity to 6 lanes.

Completion of the dualling of the Churchill Roosevelt Highway from Arima to Wallerfield, now underway.

Widening and upgrade of the Uriah Butler Highway from St. Joseph to Chaguarnas to 6 lanes.

Widening and upgrade of Wrightson Road to 6 lanes.

Construction of pedestrian overpasses at Diego Martin, Barataria, Curepe and Carlsen Field, among several other areas.

Construction of 50 new highway-grade bridges.

• Bus Fleet Renewal Programme (PTSC)

• Through its Fleet Renewal Programme (PTSC), the PNM Government has made our public transport system second to none in the Region. Between 2001 and 2010, the PTSC's fleet of buses has been increased from less than 100 in 2001 to 421 in 2010. These acquisitions have resulted in a significant expansion of service - a 300% increase from 2001.

• **Coastal Water Taxi Service** – For the first time in the modern era, a fast water taxi service between Port of Spain and San Fernando was established in December 2008. Citizens can now travel in comfort by sea between San Fernando and Port-of-Spain in less than one hour, for just \$15. Over 400,000 passengers have been safely transported thus far and 4 new vessels are scheduled



to arrive from Australia in September 2010, New routes between Port-of-Spain and Diego Martin and San Fernando and Point Fortin will then be added.

• **The Trinidad Rapid Rail Transit Project** - the Trinidad and Tobago Rapid Rail Transit will further revolutionise transport in this country. The project involves two express train lines, one from UWI St. Augustine in the North to San Fernando in the South; the other from Sangre Grande in the East to Diego Martin in the West. The air-conditioned trip from Port-of-Spain to San Fernando will take less than half an hour. The service will utilize double-decker electric trains, capable of 700 passengers, at a top speed of 160 kmph.

• **Government Shipping Services - Fast Ferries** - The PNM Government has also revolutionized the inter island ferry and sea transport system. The acquisition of two modern fast ferries has reduced the travelling time between our two islands to 2 ½ air-conditioned hours. A new Government Shipping Service Ferry Terminal Building was constructed in 2007, allowing accommodation for approximately 500 passengers. Cargo capacity on the GSS has also been significantly increased with the lease of the Warrior Spirit.

• **Air Transport Infrastructure Development** - significant upgrade of our nation's airports has been achieved over the last 8 years. The Piarco International Airport runway,

taxiways and parking areas were completely rehabilitated to international standards, as was the aircraft parking ramp at Crown Point. Tobago's international arrival and departure facilities were also upgraded. The South Terminal at Piarco was upgraded for use as an Executive Jet Facility and served the country with distinction during the Summit of the Americas and the CHOGM. During our next term, the upgrade of our airports will continue apace with the creation of an aviation industry park and of a modern new terminal building in Tobago, among many other projects.

• **Modernisation of the Licensing Office** – a Government-to-Government arrangement with the Province of Nova Scotia, Canada is creating a new system of drivers' permits and motor vehicle registration, as well as a Motor Vehicle Authority. By September 2010, citizens will be able to renew of a drivers' permit in no more than 15 minutes.

• **Modernisation of motor vehicle and traffic laws** –in recognition of a general culture of lawlessness on our roads, the PNM Government has over the last 5 years modernised the Motor Vehicle and Road Traffic Act. The Breathalyser was introduced in December 2009 and has already had a dramatic effect on the incidence of accidents and fatalities. 2010 also saw increases in penalties for reckless driving, speeding and other offences. The PNM Government has made Trinidad and Tobago a safer place for our families to drive in.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, CULTURE AND GENDER AFFAIRS

Our vision for culture is ensuring that:

- The rich diversity of our culture is an engine of economic growth, innovation, and creativity which brings our people together.
- Our history and local art forms are preserved and protected.
- Our creative people are provided with state of the art resources that would stimulate growth and development.

Our vision for community development is

- to create communities that are well integrated, nurturing and supportive

Our vision for gender affairs is

- that all citizens are included in national socio-economic development that there are no barriers to opportunities because of gender

The PNM Government's focus on culture is in recognition of the important role that culture plays in nation building, patriotism and self expression. The diversity of our culture is unique and has great socio-economic potential. The emergence of new art forms as a result of this diversity has proven to be an emerging source of revenue and new innovative products and services. The aim is create the facilitating environment and support systems that with assist this sector to grow and develop as a new source of revenue, sustainable employment and academic/artistic training.

The PNM Government understands the role that communities play in nation building. Living in communities requires that we act as our neighbour's keeper, the community must be a place that brings out the best of our values, and they represent the environment where we want to live, nurture and recreate.

Ensuring that all citizens participate in national development is critical to the gender framework. There will be no barriers to opportunities based on gender.

The Ministry of Community Development, Culture and Gender Affairs leads in the effective delivery of initiatives with other key institutions as the University of Trinidad and Tobago, Intellectual Property Office, and Tobago House of Assembly through a number of initiatives including:

Development and Expansion of the Export Centres	Refurbishment of Theatres and Performing Arts Centres
	Support to Indigenous groups and cultural organisations
Academies for the Performing Arts	Tobago Heritage Festival
	
Support for the Carnival and other festivals	Establishment of new museums
Construction of new museums	Construction of Community Centres



What have these interventions done for you?

- **Development and Expansion of the Export Centres** – These Centres serve as an avenue for young entrepreneurs to develop new products in the craft industry and facilitate export. It is a particularly attractive area for niche craft products as home furnishings, textiles, leather craft and natural jewelry.
- **Refurbishment of Theatre and performing art centres** – venues as the Queen's Hall and the little Carib Theatre are being upgraded and refurbished to provide modern facilities for the performing arts community. These facilities are available to the arts community for local and international productions.
- **Academies for the Performing Arts** – Two state of the art Performing Academies are being constructed; the North Academy was opened in November 2009 while work on the South Academy is ongoing. These Academies offer international standard facilities that will attract both local and international performers. They will also act as institutions for learning in the area of performing arts to be delivered by the University of Trinidad and Tobago.
- **Support to Indigenous groups and cultural organisations** – financial and technical support are given to ensure the preservation of our native peoples and our cultural history.
- **Support for the Carnival and other festivals** – the diversity of ours festivals gives opportunity to effectively showcase to national, regional and international communities our talent and history. Effective marketing and delivery of a world class tourism and business product is supported by the PNM Government.
- **Tobago Heritage Festival** – the unique culture of Tobago is supported and showcased as a world class festival, nurturing traditions as well as serving as an emerging and sustainable tourism product.
- **Establishment of new museums, historical sites** – Storage of historical artifacts, and recoding our rich history ensures that we develop pride in our nation's past and preserves this history for future generations.
- **Construction of Community Centres** – to create a neutral space for members of the community to meet, learn, and recreate.

STATUS OF WOMEN IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF VISION 2020.

The status of women in Trinidad and Tobago compares favourably with many middle income developing nations. The equal rights of men and women are guaranteed under the 1976 Republican Constitution and the PNM Government remains committed to promoting gender equity and equality. The overarching National Policy Framework is Vision 2020. Gender equality was identified as integral to this process.

In the United Nations' 2009 Gender Empowerment Measure (GEM), Trinidad & Tobago appears at number 14 among the 195 Nations of the World. The Global Economic Forum Report for 2008 and 2009 has ranked Trinidad and Tobago at position 19 in its Gender Empowerment Index. This is the highest rank for any country in this Region. Other significant achievements in this area include:

- The advancement of gender sensitive institutional arrangements, e.g. PNM Government's tax incentive of \$500,000 for the provision of child care facilities at the worksite and child care facility at the Ministry of the Attorney General
- Introduction of gender aware facilities within public and private buildings i.e baby changing areas in public rest-rooms and breast-feeding areas at job sites e.g Ministry of Finance .
- The development of programmes aimed at increasing understanding of the value of housework and other forms of unremunerated work, e.g. the Food Preparation, Fine Dining and Home Management course for males by the Gender Affairs Division.
- Commitment to greater levels of gender balance in power and decision-making at all levels and sectors, including Governmental bodies. Increased appointment of females to State and Para-State Boards.
- Trinidad and Tobago has a solid legal framework supporting gender and workplace issues, including laws relating to Sexual Offences, Minimum Wages, Counting of Unwaged Work and Maternity Protection. Among recent legislation are the following:

- The Occupational Safety and Health Amendment Act of 2006;
- The Homes for Older Persons Act of 2007,
- The International Child Abduction Act 2008, and the Children Authority Amendment Act, 2008.

• Women's overall participation in national leadership and decision-making has increased. In fact, women's political participation is currently at a historical high, closely approaching and in most instances outstripping international benchmarks. Trinidad and Tobago's current situation as reported by the United Nations Human Development Report 2009 is as follows:

Seats in Parliament held by women 33%
 Women in Ministerial positions 36%
 Female legislators, senior officials and managers 43%
 Female professional and technical workers 53%

Women have held many non-traditional portfolios, including Deputy Speaker of the House of Representatives; Attorney General and Minister of Finance. Women have also acted as President and Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

• Employment among women has grown. The labour force registered 628, 400 persons at the end of the 4th quarter 2006, representing 353,000 men and 236,900 women. As a result of the solid macro-economic management, women's employment status has been improving overall.

• Enrolment and success rates at both secondary and tertiary levels have shown significantly higher levels for females. At the secondary level, the 2007 CXC and CAPE results have shown females have outperforming boys in all areas except Mathematics. At the tertiary level, the past five years have seen a steady increase of females in traditionally male-dominated areas like law, medicine and engineering. In 2008, of the 10,740 students registering, 66.2% were female.

• There is increased access to health care services, including testing for HIV/ AIDS and other lifestyle diseases i.e Prevention of Mother to Child HIV/AIDS Transmission Programme, in which free Anti-retroviral treatment is given to pregnant HIV positive women.

• The Women in Harmony Programme, was designed to address unemployment among women between the ages of 26 and 45 who are single heads of household with low/no skills and income. An onsite child care component was also added to the Programme, The Non-Traditional Skills Training Programme for Women also provides technical/vocational training in several areas. This has resulted in an increase in the number of women employed in the construction industry and others.

• Increased participation by females in community development processes including cultural development and sport. The past decade has seen increases in the number of female pannists, female athletes and women in the formal and informal business sectors.

• There has an increase of over 100% in the budgetary allocation to the Gender Affairs Division over the past five years, strengthening the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment.

• The PNM Government has remained committed to the eradication of violence against women and contributes annually to the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women" Convention of Belem do Para" (MESECVI) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). Moreover, the National Domestic Violence Hotline (800-SAVE) was maintained and upgraded.

• We have published a Draft National Gender Policy as a Green Paper and invited comments from stakeholders and interest groups, so that appropriate adjustments can be made before it becomes official Government policy.



SPORT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS

OUR VISION RECOGNISES AND EMBRACES SPORT AS A POWERFUL TOOL FOR PROMOTING GOOD HEALTH, DEEPENING COMMUNITY SPIRIT AND NATIONAL PRIDE, AND CREATING VIABLE BUSINESSES.

- Specific policies have been designed for identifying and honing world class athletes for this country's representation at international level.

- Your PNM Government envisions a youth sector that is healthy, knowledgeable and skilled, possessing positive values and participating in all aspects of national development.

What have our interventions done for you?

During 2009, the PNM Government continued its initiative to foster a sports culture in order to provide citizens with sporting and recreational opportunities.

- Sporting and Recreational Activities – we have upgrading sporting infrastructure at the community level and increasing the range of sporting programmes. In just the last two years alone, we have constructed 17 new Community Recreation Grounds, 12 Hard Courts and 13 Lighted Jogging tracks.

- **The Elite Athletes Assistance Programme (EAAP)** increased the success rate of our athletes at international competitions. In 2008, 22 athletes under the EAAP qualified for and competed at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in the Sporting areas of Athletics, Swimming, Rifle Shooting and Table Tennis.

- **Development of regional and sub-regional grounds** – 15 sub-regional grounds and 5 Regional Grounds will attain international standards - cricket and football fields, a jogging track, a pavilion and floodlighting and many other facilities. Over 200 other recreation grounds and community facilities all over Trinidad and Tobago will be upgraded to first-class standards in our next term.

- **Community Programmes** The "Learn to Swim" Programme encompassed 71 Schools nationwide.

- **The Women and Girls in Sport Festival** was held in March 2009. This pioneering festival drew approximately 840 women and girls to participate.

- **Health and Physical Education Curriculum** To encourage success at International Games, a Task Force has been established to develop talent from primary participation up to the elite. A Preliminary Report has been submitted to the Task Force.

- **Tobago** has embarked on a number of new projects, including such competitions as the Tobago Primary School Relay Festival, Tobago Primary School Tennis Championship, Tobago Primary School Mini Volley Ball Championship, Sport Aid Grant for Schools, Tobago Secondary School Relay Festival and the Tobago Secondary School Tennis Championship.

- **World Class Sporting Facilities** By constructing a sporting infrastructure capable of hosting international events, the country will reap direct economic benefits and enhance its image as a global destination. A programme to establish such facilities was initiated in 2008. The PNM Government approved the construction of the National Aquatic Centre at Mt. Hope, National Tennis Centre at Tacarigua and National Cycle Track at Mucurapo. Construction is anticipated to commence in 2010.

FOCUS ON YOUTH

Our youth is our future. Your PNM Government has focused attention on this crucial sector, with an emphasis on helping 'At Risk Youth'. Here are some examples.

- **The National Life Skills Curriculum** for Personal Development and Employment Enhancement focuses on the personal and social development of our nation's youth and is designed to prepare them to function more effectively within professional and social settings.

- **The period of July 1st to August 12th** was designated National Youth Month. Activities included: Bring a Youth to Work, Business Persons Forum, Elect a Youth, National Youth Rally and more.

- **The National Youth Awards**, held on August 12th 2009, recognised youths who have excelled at various vocations. A National Youth Survey was also launched to determine the motivations, interests, passion and needs of young people, with particular reference to 'At Risk Youth'.

- **The Youth Resources for Implementing Successful Enterprises (YouthRISE)**, is another programme which seeks to help 'at risk' youth with their personal and social development. It provides a package of viable options to support business start up and self employment.

- The Specialised Youth Service Programmes (SYSP) under the stewardship of the Trinidad and Tobago Defence Force and including the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), The Youth Programme for Apprenticeship and Reorientation Training (MY PART) and the Academic Training Programme (MILAT), all seek to help 'at risk' youth with personal and social development.

- Youth employment remains a priority of the PNM Government. Thousands benefitted from Scheduled Programmes such as the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP); the Multi Sector Skills Programme (MuST); the Helping Youth Prepare for Employment (HYPE) Programme; and the Retraining Programme (MSTTE). Furthermore, the On the Job Training programme provides over 6,000 youths per year with hands on experience in the world of work. The Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA) even offers career training in this vital field.



PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION/ICT

OUR VISION IS TO BE AN INTER-CONNECTED, TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED, SOCIETY WITH MODERN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS DRIVING INNOVATION, GROWTH AND SOCIAL PROGRESS



The Ministry of Public Administration (MPA) has been charged with the duties of promoting the use of ICT among the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. The world around us is changing and this PNM Government has taken the decision to pursue the highest world ratings in ICT usage, so that our citizens can access the systems and skills to benefit from advances in this area, in particular to engage with and do business with the public services. In an effort to achieve this goal a number of initiatives/programmes have been implemented. They are as follows;

- The Library Net Programme
- Knowledge, Innovation and Development (KID) Programme
- Implementation of the National Broadband Action Plan
- Government Communications Backbone Project
- ttconnect
- B2B eMarketplace

What have these interventions done for you?

- The Library Net Programme facilitated by the National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS) has as one of its features to outfit all libraries in the country with computers and internet access. As at June 2009, 100 per cent of libraries in T&T were equipped with computers and free internet access through this programme. These systems facilitate research and continuous learning for many of our citizens right in their communities.
- **The Knowledge, Innovation and Development (KID) Programme**, is aimed at equipping all schools with computers and internet access to facilitate uniformity of education, improving overall educational standards and allowing students and teachers to work collaboratively. In 2008-2009, 339 primary schools and 11 special schools were provided with networked computer laboratories and approximately 600 primary school teachers were oriented in the use of computers and ICT in education. In order to ensure the goal of widespread connectivity in the primary and secondary education systems 190 primary schools and

125 secondary schools were connected to the internet. Additionally, to assist the students in the utilization of technology, 778 primary and 532 secondary school teachers were trained in basic network administration in 2008 alone. This training will continue apace in our next term.

- **The National Broadband Action Plan** has brought about wider access to broadband services and high speed internet access. It has spearheaded the drive to infuse the use of ICT among individual citizens as well as business.

Internet services have evolved over the last few years and subscribers now have access to both fixed and mobile service features. In 2008, an estimated total of 224,000 persons subscribed for internet service, a 28 per cent increase from 2007. There are now 13 Internet Service Providers available to the population.

Additionally, two new international submarine fibre optic cables landed in Trinidad, thereby effectively tripling the offshore bandwidth capacity. This caused a reduction in retail and leased line broadband prices for citizens.

- **Government Communications Backbone Project, GovNeTT**, provides a secure platform for "joined up" Government. It serves to facilitate communications and information sharing among Government agencies and departments, by providing basic connectivity services such as email (audio, video and text), messaging, scheduling and internet access over a Wide Area Network (WAN). At present, some 20 Ministries, 230 Divisions and approximately 10,000 users are connected to the backbone. This project will result in significant time saved by citizens when doing business with the public service.

- Through **ttconnect** online the e-Government Portal Project, information pertaining to 400 Government services is currently available via www.ttconnect.gov.tt. These new services include access to application forms for the On-the-Job Training and Multi-Sector Skills Training Programmes as well as Scholarships.

Furthermore, in order to increase access to Government online services, several Service Centres were successfully launched. In 2008, two centres were opened in Princes Town and St. James and approximately 8800 applicants had accessed the services offered by these Centres. In 2009, four locations were opened in Arima, Chaguanas, Tunapuna and Bon Accord in Tobago. Cumulatively 25,000 transactions were processed at the Service Centres.

Complementary to the Service Centres is the Self-Serve kiosk. The kiosks are intended to provide access to services via the **e-Government Portal** on a 24/7 basis. They allow payment for services by Credit and Debit Card. They also have the capability to allow "phone-in" to appropriate departments for queries on services. They are currently at Piarco International Airport; Gulf City

Mall, Lowlands Tobago; Gulf City Mall, La Romaine; Hi Lo Supermarket, Point Fortin; and the ttconnect Service Centre at Gaston, Chaguanas.

- In an effort to further advance e-Business within our country, the Business Development Company (BDC) e-marketplace website has expanded over the last couple years. A total of 885 companies are registered and conduct business online. The website acts as a business portal which provides information on business locally and internationally.

Building our nation

• Through the **Library Net Programme** persons have been given the opportunity to use computers and access the internet. Citizens who wish to, can now do internet research at all the nation's libraries. For families who are unable to afford computers, it has been provided for them in a safe facility where they can learn together. Integration of the Internet into the school programme has resulted in students leaving school with a high level of capacity in the use of ICT.

- The **National Broadband Plan** plays its part in getting the country connected. Now more citizens can access internet services. The vast amount of information online can only help citizens grow in knowledge, creativity and enterprise.

• The Government Communications backbone is an immense accomplishment. It has allowed officers in the service to access information readily and to communicate easily across Ministries and agencies. This has resulted in an increase in productivity. It has facilitated an increasingly paperless system which in turn helps the environment.

- The **e-marketplace** promotes trade - export sales and business development. It will thus help us diversify and expand our market and customer base through showcasing our products regionally and internationally at a significantly reduced cost.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

The PNM Government recognizes that despite many attempts at improvement over the years, citizens are simply not getting the level and quality of service that they deserve from Local Government Corporations. We are determined to change this radically and fundamentally.

The Way Forward

- The Ministry of Local Government is guided by the Vision 2020 pillar of promoting good and effective governance, espousing principles such as accountability, transparency, participation and predictability. This means building robust institutional structures that empower all citizens to participate in the decision making processes.

- We have taken cognizance of international best practices. These include those accords and benchmarks arising out of recent Commonwealth Local Government Forum meetings. Here, strategic planning for the development of sustainable communities and good practices for local democracy were widely discussed and agreed upon.

- After widespread stakeholder consultation, we have published a White Paper on Local Government Reform in Trinidad and Tobago, which highlights some of the measures and programmes we would implement to realize our Local Government Reform policy objectives, including:

What does this mean for you?

We believe that our proposed new Local Government System will herald a new era in Local Governance and participatory democracy in Trinidad and Tobago, bringing more efficient corporate and Municipal Management; expanded coverage and enhanced quality of service delivery; easier access to services through a robust interactive e-Government platform; the realignment of boundaries in accordance with changes in natural geographic configuration, population growth and regional/urban migration trends; the reconfiguration of the local Government geographic profile for balanced sustainable development and easier access to services through the establishment of four cities, one borough and seven regions. In addition, it will mean safe, secure and peaceful communities through effective community policing.

In this regard, the necessary planning and preparatory work for this reform exercise is virtually complete; the drafting of new legislation has been done, and it is thus the PNM's intention to move swiftly to initiate the reform of the Local Government System early in our next term, and to hold Local Government elections under the new system in this year 2010. **We believe that under the new system, citizens will enjoy vastly improved services from Local Government Corporations.**

ENERGY

The energy sector of Trinidad and Tobago continues to have direct relevance to the future economic growth and sustainable development of the economy of this country, since it accounts for almost 50% our GDP. The PNM Government's objective is to maximize our revenue potential from the energy sector, to create and distribute wealth for the benefit of our population. In energy, the platform for our further development is being carefully constructed and with the widest possible involvement designed to create activity in the sector. Our focus at this time includes:

- **The revised Fiscal terms designed to stimulate activity**
- **The priority use of gas resources**
- **The ability of Petrotrin to boost local oil production and;**
- **Our renewable energy agenda.**

The Government has completed the review of the fiscal system and is at this time awaiting comments from the industry.

We have reviewed the contractual arrangements that will be offered under future competitive bid rounds as well as the tax/royalty arrangements. We have concluded that the Production Sharing Contract remains our preferred form of arrangement.

Our new PSC will be similar to the 1995/6 models in which companies were allowed to evaluate their risks and offer an adequate share of Profit Petroleum. This is intended to reduce some of the inherent risks and encourage potential investment.

Emphasis will be placed on those areas and activities where incentives for revitalization and sustainability are required, such as in the mature offshore oil acreages and on land where enhanced oil recovery projects are undertaken.

These incentives will directly impact on the Supplemental Petroleum Tax rates that will be payable by companies and thus provide companies with additional financial flows to re-invest in the upstream sector.



This new regime will address small, mature fields and tail-end production and will allow for a situation intended to encourage new investment while allowing current production levels to be sustained.

Looking to the future, the PNM Government will continue to review our gas sector development plans and our updated priorities for gas development are as follows:

- Allocate gas for new approved projects including Alutrint, Essar Steel and Gas to Polypropylene.
- Allocate for existing plants and their future needs for defined periods.
- Debottlenecking of the current LNG trains
- Dealing with ammonia and related downstream facilities which must be part of any proposal

While we recognise that oil production has been on the decline and the country has become more gas based, we shall encourage a mix that is more balanced.

Petrotrin will have an important role to play in delivering on this objective and we have challenged its leadership to organise in such a way as to support this requirement for increases in oil production. We anticipate that gains in production volumes will be realised from this initiative.

Petrotrin also has been mandated to develop a program for the efficient and effective management of the Trinmar asset. Petrotrin has also applied a 3D seismic programme to its assets in the North West District and API's Oropouche farmout area of South Trinidad and expects to complete a survey by December 2010. The survey is intended to guide the future exploration on land and is intended to result in the identification of more oil drilling locations.

Renewable Energy

The PNM Government is developing a renewable energy policy for Trinidad and Tobago which should be available for public comment shortly. We are in the process of developing a framework for partnering with the United States through its Department of Energy (USDOE) in the development of a Renewable Energy Research Centre and a Framework for Partnership under the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas (ECPA). The Partnership was first announced at the Fifth Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain, where President Obama invited all countries of the Western Hemisphere to be a part of a united effort in this critical area.

The Renewable Energy Research Centre will provide an excellent opportunity to broaden our joint activities while building needed capacity in the region. The key strategies developed and deployed by this Government for the current and long-term vibrancy of the gas sector revolve around the deliberate selection of a mix of gas-consuming projects which will provide diversification, balance and maximum value-adding potential for our economy.

AGRICULTURE

OUR VISION IS TO REVAMP THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR AND INCREASE PROFITABILITY THROUGH A FOCUS ON AGRI-BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TO ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY

Diversification of the economy continues to be a priority of the PNM Government of Trinidad and Tobago. Before oil and gas there was agriculture, and agriculture remains a top priority, particularly given the prevailing economic conditions, the challenges of climate change and the recent drought. Agriculture plays a significant role not only in terms of economic diversity but also in poverty reduction programs and educational opportunities. In 2009 the agriculture industry in Trinidad and Tobago grew by 27.5%. To build on this growth we have embarked on the following key initiatives:

- Agricultural Access Roads Programme
- Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA)
- NAMDEVCO Development Activities
- Grow Box Development
- Agricultural Land Information System and Inventory of State Lands
- Establishment of Agriculture Settlements in Trinidad
- Creation of Large Commercial Farms

What have these interventions done for you?

- As at August 2009, through the Agricultural Access Roads Programme 8.42km of roads were rehabilitated, at locations including Leekham 226 Road, off Mamoral Road, Dennis Trace, Moruga, and La Reunion Estate. A further 7.5km of roads and one bridge in Trinidad have already been designated for 2010.

- **Youth Apprenticeship Programme in Agriculture (YAPA)** continues to be a fruitful programme for young persons wishing to be involved in agriculture. It is available in two geographic jurisdictions in Trinidad, the North and South Regional Administrations.

- To date the **National Agricultural Marketing and Development Corporation (NAMDEVCO)** has established seven strategically located Farmers' Markets throughout Trinidad. These bring cheaper prices for consumers and farmers are encouraged to produce more since they have a ready market for their produce. Plans for opening a market in Tobago are under review. The Corporation continues to produce a monthly bulletin on the agriculture sector. Information on prices of selected commodities is also published in the newspaper. **The National Agricultural Market Information System (NAMISTT)** as well as their



website, www.namistt.com, also provides a wide range of information with respect to agricultural prices and produce.

- **The Grow Box Development programme** is an intensive form of cultivation geared to households with limited yard space. It is environmentally sustainable and would assist in the nation's drive to food and nutrition security.

- Improvements to the **State Agricultural Land Information System (SALIS)** continue. Based on the information collected, approximately 1452 new agricultural leases for 4686 acres of land were allocated to persons occupying and actively cultivating State lands, for the period 2004 to July 2009. In May 2008 all agricultural lands were transferred to the Estate Management Business Development Company Limited (EMBD).

- The Establishment of **Agriculture Settlements** in Trinidad provides services in agricultural communities such as desilting and construction of access roads, which reduces the loss of crops to flooding in such areas. In Regional Area North (RAN), approximately 68 km of drains and irrigation channels were desilted, while at Regional Area South (RAS), there was desilting of approximately 15.45km.

- **The Creation of Large Commercial Farms** is pivotal in supporting the PNM Government's efforts to accelerate the transfer of modern farming technologies to small farmers. To date some 29 farmers have already benefited from training at the PCS Nitrogen Model Farm and Agricultural Resource Centre. When fully operational, these farms will extend their outreach to farmers throughout the country and provide training in such invaluable areas as fertilizer management, greenhouse production methods, direct marketing, computer literacy, agro-environmental technology, storage, handling and marketing strategies, agricultural economics, agricultural finance, business planning for farmers, crop diversification, basic equipment maintenance, soil management, soil sampling testing and irrigation technology.



TRADE AND INDUSTRY DIVERSIFYING OUR ECONOMY

OUR VISION IS TO CREATE AN ENABLING BUSINESS CLIMATE TO TRANSFORM TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO INTO A DIVERSIFIED ECONOMY WITH EXCITING GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES THAT ATTRACTS INVESTORS AND ENCOURAGES COMPETITIVE BUSINESSES TO START AND GROW



The Government of Trinidad and Tobago has embarked on a series of initiatives that will enable businesses to flourish in an environment that is conducive to their growth and enhances their competitive edge. The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) has been championing this area and has implemented a number of initiatives aimed at achieving this Vision. Some of these include;

- **Development and Upgrade of Industrial Estates and Business Parks**
- **Tamana InTech Park**
- **Establishment of a Research and Development Facility**
- **e-Business Development**
- **Establishment of the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre**
- **The Single Electronic Window (SEW) Programme**
- **Development of Creative industries**

What have these interventions done for you?

- **The Development of Industrial Estates and Business Parks** facilitates the growth of light manufacturing industries and activities in the non-energy sector. Some of the new industrial parks facilitate opportunities downstream the energy sector and accommodate businesses that will support the heavier industrial activity that is also being encouraged.

- **The Tamana InTech Park (TIP)** will provide a nurturing environment, conducive to the realization of business synergies and the successful development of new types of businesses. It promotes a knowledge-driven economy that will create sustainable industries and provide enlightened job opportunities for hundreds of highly skilled citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

- **The Establishment of a Research and Development Facility** has provided financial support to the private sector for cutting edge, innovative research and development projects. It assists business enterprises in

the non-energy manufacturing and services sectors in adopting new technology and developing innovative systems and processes.

- In the **facilitation of e-Business Development**, the Business Development Company (BDC) has launched the smeXchange website, an online business-to-business portal aimed at providing real-time access to essential business information.

- **The Establishment of the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre (TTIFC)** forms part of the diversification effort at the Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre. It will build the country's profile as a world-class provider of financial services and serve as a gateway to opportunities in the Caribbean and Latin America. Furthermore, the TTIFC will create a broad set of financial services-related employment opportunities, offer attractive career growth with long-term potential to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago and serve as a training ground to develop our local human capital.

- **The Single Electronic Window (SEW) Programme** is an electronic 'one-stop-shop', where private stakeholders and approving Government agencies can collaborate to process necessary permits and approvals online in a seamless and efficient manner. Put simply, it aims to make Customs, importation and business registration more efficient, thus impacting positively on the price of goods to consumers and reducing costs to businesses.

- **Through the Development of Creative industries**, Trinidad and Tobago can foster innovation and creativity within our society. The Entertainment and Film industries are two of the seven priority industries targeted in the diversification thrust and provide new opportunities for business development, expansion and job creation. It is in this context that the **Trinidad and Tobago Entertainment Company Limited (T&T Ent)** and the **Trinidad and Tobago Film Company (TTFC)** were established.





FINANCE

OUR VISION IS TO MAINTAIN AND ADVANCE A PROGRESSIVE, STABLE AND GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE FINANCIAL SYSTEM THAT MOVES TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO TOWARDS BECOMING THE FINANCIAL CENTRE OF THE REGION.

In spite of the global economic downturn, this PNM Government has been able to maintain its macroeconomic stability. Not taking this for granted, the PNM Government has innovated to put measures in place to maintain a strong economy. These measures are also part of the PNM Government's larger drive towards enabling competitive business, for which economic stability is a necessary condition. They include:

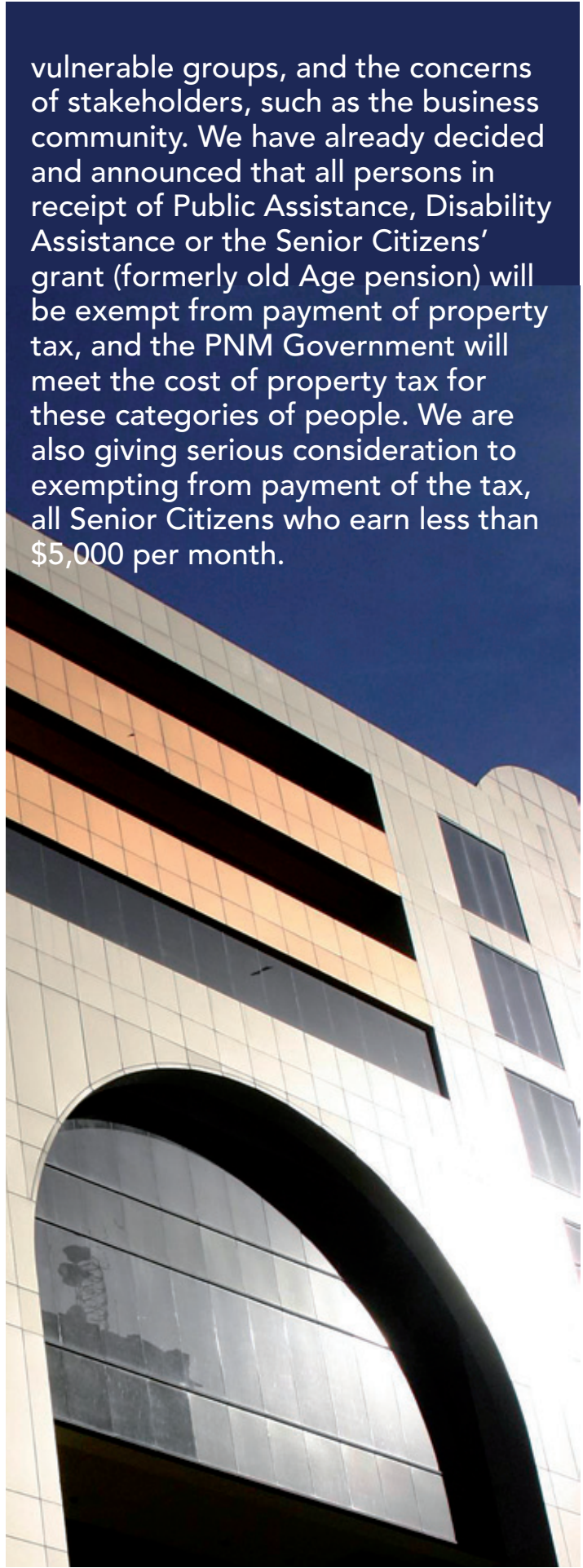
- The Heritage and Stabilisation Fund
- Financial Sector Reform Initiatives
- National Financial Literacy Programmes

What have these interventions done for you?

- The **Heritage and Stabilisation Fund (HSF)** was established in March 2007. Its purpose is to save and invest surplus petroleum revenues in order to act as a buffer and generate an alternative income stream in periods of revenue downturn, while providing a heritage for future generations. As international markets improve there will be improved returns on investment and increased Government deposits, hence increasing the Fund's value.
- The **Financial Sector Reform** Initiatives are aimed at improving the efficiency and stability of the financial system. The proper legislative and regulatory framework must be put in place to provide the flexibility and incentives desired by the business community. As part of this drive the Financial Institutions Act (1993) and the Securities Industry Act (1995) were revised and updated.
- The **Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago (CBTT)** is currently spearheading the National Financial Literacy Programme which was launched on January 31, 2007. Its objectives include improving the financial literacy of the population to facilitate better financial decision-making. They are currently preparing to conduct sessions for schools (primary, secondary and tertiary), retirees, the differently-able, and those interested in starting a small to micro enterprise.

Building our nation

- The size and status of our HSF reinforces this PNM Government's achievement in maintaining economic stability despite recession in the global financial market. The HSF ensures that Trinidad and Tobago is in a better position to manage and mitigate the negative effects of a global financial meltdown. It will ensure that the needs of the citizens are met in spite of the global situation. It should be noted that the target level of the HSF set for 2010 was surpassed by July 2008. Additionally, throughout the economic crisis no funds were drawn from the HSF while all social services were continued and some increased so that our most vulnerable citizens in Trinidad and Tobago did not experience hardship during the crisis.
- The Financial Institutions Act and Securities Industry Act are the cornerstones in the upgrade of the regulatory, tax and legal framework of the Financial Sector. The passage of these laws also involves the improvement of standards of governance. As a result of this the financial sector is more refined and attractive for local and international stakeholders, which will capture the interest of serious investors. Greater investment will bring benefit to all citizens through increased opportunities for financing business, job creation, increased revenue and more competitive business.
- The National Financial Literacy Programme helps to make our citizens knowledgeable and skilled in personal financial planning, budgeting and money management in addition to increasing the awareness of the population about the financial products and services at their disposal. A more financially prudent society will aid in the advancement of the entire nation as each person makes more informed choices.
- In our next term, in order to facilitate business and make Trinidad and Tobago even more competitive, we will continue to reform our taxation system, **with the objective being to reduce personal and corporate income tax even further, to a flat rate of 20%**. We expect that that these reforms will be a strong driver of our economy.
- It is also our intention, in consultation with stakeholders, including the Business Sector and Trade Unions, to continue our work towards the establishment of a modern Revenue Authority, a statutory authority which will have responsibility for all functions now handed by the Inland Revenue Division and the Customs & Excise Division. We believe that the establishment of an authority of this nature will create greater efficiency, increase revenue collections and ensure greater equity and transparency in the collection of taxes and duties.
- In our next term, we will also make appropriate modifications to our new Property Tax system, before implementation, in order to suitably address the question of relief for persons on fixed incomes and other



vulnerable groups, and the concerns of stakeholders, such as the business community. We have already decided and announced that all persons in receipt of Public Assistance, Disability Assistance or the Senior Citizens' grant (formerly old Age pension) will be exempt from payment of property tax, and the PNM Government will meet the cost of property tax for these categories of people. We are also giving serious consideration to exempting from payment of the tax, all Senior Citizens who earn less than \$5,000 per month.



THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

We recognize that our justice system continues to be in urgent need of reform. The Peoples National Movement is committed to building capacity and creating efficiencies in the system which governs the administration of justice. This task is well underway:

- Within the past year we have enacted legislation to allow for an increase in the number of High Court Judges and Judges in the Court of Appeal by fifty per cent, the largest single increase since Independence.
- We have enacted legislation to allow for the more efficient use of technology in court proceedings and to allow for the more efficient prosecution of criminal offences.
- We have agreed to increase the number of prosecutors in The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to allow for the speedier and more efficient disposition of criminal matters.

We have already identified our priorities for our next term, specifically those measures that will ease the flow of cases through the system and result in a more expeditious delivery of justice.

- We shall streamline the categories of matters which can be dealt with before a magistrate
- We shall remove from the magistracy those matters which can be dealt with administratively, such as certain traffic violations and applications for certain types of licences.
- We shall remove from the High Court the resolution of those disputes - and the disposition of certain matters - which can best be dealt with before specialized tribunals, such as certain land disputes and the establishment of title to real property in certain classes of case. The new systems and procedures will assist in the resolution of the problem of titles to property, particularly in Tobago.
- We shall reform the rules governing the conduct of Preliminary Inquiries in respect of certain categories of offences.

In the short term the measures we have adopted and those which we propose will result in quicker court processes including speedier access to the criminal justice system. We are resolved to fix our justice system.



TOURISM

OUR VISION IS TO MAKE TOURISM INTO A MAJOR ECONOMIC SECTOR CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE NATION'S GDP, DRIVEN BY A UNIQUELY DIFFERENTIATED, INTERNATIONALLY COMPETITIVE PRODUCT, COMPLEMENTED BY COMPREHENSIVE, FULLY FUNCTIONAL PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, MODERN, COMPETITIVE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK AND SUPPORTED BY THE PEOPLE OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO.

We have ambitious goals for Tourism, mapped out in a Master Plan that foresees 200,000 direct and indirect jobs by 2020. Here are the key objectives:

- **Employees in the Tourism Sector will have increased access to training and development on a continuous basis with the potential for increased income earning and enhanced standard of living**
- **The talent of the people of Trinidad and Tobago is a prime resource base for tourism development – this talent will be developed and nurtured to provide creativity and competitiveness to the sector**
- **A cultural conservation and enhancement approach that encourages the maintenance of the country's unique cultural identity will to be developed**
- **Citizens, particularly local communities, will become more involved in the planning and development of local tourism. Increased opportunities for entrepreneurship, employment and income generation will result**
- **Tourism Education will be enhanced, involving tertiary level tourism scholarships, encouraging the introduction of language and technology-oriented training and postgraduate level leisure, tourism and hospitality management programmes at the University of the West Indies**
- **The establishment of a Tourism Industrial Park, along with the revitalization of the Port-of-Spain Waterfront, will position Port-of-Spain as the Meetings and Conventions Capital of the Southern Caribbean in support of its existing status as the business center of the sub region**
- **We will upgrade Trinidad and Tobago's existing room stock to acceptable international standards and establish a critical mass of new rooms, led by the luxury 5 star end of the market**
- **Tobago will continue to receive major levels of investment in terms of tourism infrastructure, marketing support and international airlift**



TOBAGO

In Tobago, under a PNM Government, citizens can always be assured of an environment of integrity and equality, in order to support efforts to achieve their fullest potential. Our objectives over the next term include the following:

FINANCE AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

The Cove Eco-Industrial and Business Park – the Future

In our next term, development work at the Cove Eco-Industrial and Business Park will be completed to ensure that there are greater opportunities for Tobagonians to start and expand their businesses. The PNM will establish the Eco-Industrial Development Company of Tobago to manage the operations of Cove and ensure that there is a micro-entrepreneurial complex within Cove. We will provide incubator services to new businesses at Cove.



Enterprise Assistance

The following are some of our key plans:

- **Expansion of the Enterprise Assistance Programme to allow for faster processing of loan applications and disbursements**
- **Establishment of a special facility to manage the Enterprise Assistance Programme.**
- **Review and revision of our loan policy to improve the management and coverage of the Programme**
- **Support for business initiatives of young people**
- **Training to our clients of the Enterprise Assistance Programme**
- **Appropriate staffing of the Business Development Unit**
- **Promotion of entrepreneurship within each community in Tobago, including outreach programmes**
- **Improvement and upgrade of the infrastructure and security, and marketing of the products and services, at the Esplanade.**

Information Technology

The PNM will expand opportunities for Tobagonians to enter the IT business and make IT literacy training more readily available to Tobagonians. We will improve the access of Tobagonians to information on governance in Tobago by constant upgrades and improvements to the 211 system.

TOURISM AND TRANSPORTATION

Tourism is the principal activity on which Tobago's economy is built. Our goal in the next term is to develop the soft affects of the industry to ensure that greater benefits of the infrastructural cost accrue to the society.

- In this regard we would ensure that the Milford Road Esplanade, which was constructed as an integral part of the Port Complex, plays its part in entertaining and exposing the products of the island to the cruise and other visitors.

- The handicraft industry would be bolstered by the requisite training to develop the expertise in manufacturing the pieces in the appropriate dimensions for take away by tourists.

- Shops in Scarborough will be afforded duty-free status; and indigenous products would be emphasized, using motifs that are distinctively Tobagonian. The aim would be to allow the tourist to obtain a minimum of \$100 US per day pleasure, per capita, from the services we provide.

- The Heritage Festival will be supported and aggressively promoted

- The bed and breakfast sector will be encouraged.

- The domestic air bridge will be improved with more available seats and a more reliable service
- Crown Point International Airport will be promoted as a hub for international air travel between North and South America, Europe and Africa



EDUCATION, YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORT

One of the major areas for policy intervention, articulated in the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan, is the creation of a seamless, self-renewing, high quality education system, in which every citizen has equal opportunities to achieve his/her fullest potential. To achieve this in Tobago, there will be a focus on

- **Access to Schools.**
- **Curriculum Development**
- **Information and Communication and Technology**
- **Teacher Education and Development.**

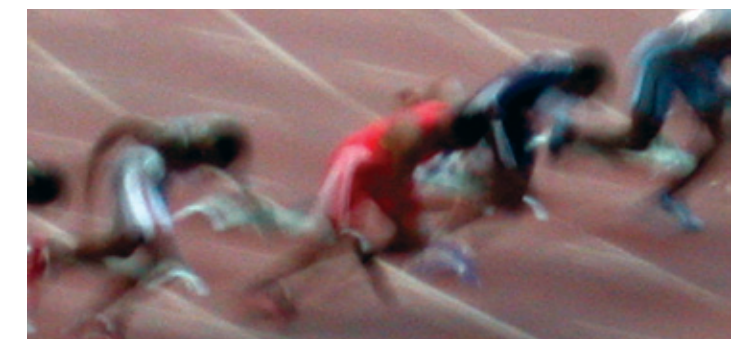
In the area of higher education, a campus of the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT) will be established in Tobago in our next term, providing a full range of tertiary education programmes for Tobagonians.

- **A Tobago Training Agency (TTA) will be established**
- **A comprehensive TVET registry will be established in Tobago**
- **A Tobago Regional Knowledge Hub will be established**
- **The Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute (THTI) will be maintained and expanded**
- **A campus of the College Of Science Technology and Applied Arts of T & T (COSTATT) will be established**
- **The NESC will formulate and implement training programmes to meet Tobago's industrial needs.**
- **A Technology and Continuing Education Centre will be established**

Sports

The following are our plans for the next term:

- Construction of an Indoor Sports Hall and Aquatic Centre
- Construction of a Community Swimming Pool
- Lighting of recreation grounds at Canaan/Bon Accord, Plymouth, Roxborough, Bloody Bay, Calder Hall
- Construction of a multipurpose Centre at Betsy's Hope
- Construction of pavilions at Mt. Pleasant, Goodwood, Mason Hall
- Upgrades to Playing Fields at Bloody Bay, Castara.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURE

- Reintroduction of Drama and Dance Festivals in Tobago.
- Reintroduction of the Prime Minister's Best Village Trophy Competition in Tobago.
- Initiation of a Best Kept Street Competition.
- Intensification of the teaching of steel band music in schools/groups and introduction of Homework Centres in Community Centres.
- Teaching of tambourine (tambrin) playing in schools and groups.
- Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) – stages 2, 3 and 4.
- Archiving of each community's history; partnering with Department of Tourism on village tourism.

Tobago Heritage Festival

- Restoration of historic homes.
- Completion of Shaw Park Cultural Complex for staging of large and small programmes, including carnival, dance, drama, and music festivals.
- Construction/renovation of approximately eighteen (18) community facilities, including pan theatres.
- Construction of Administrative Complex to house the Division of Community Development and Culture.
- Phase II of Pembroke Heritage Park.
- Community School for the Arts.
- Caribbean Cultural Conference 2009.
- Inter-regional Cultural Exchange Programme.
- Heritage Youth Explosion.
- Junior Heritage School Science Project.
- Maypole Festival 2009.
- Community Development and Culture Theatre Arts Festival.
- Children's Theatre for Children Twelve and under.
- Theatre Teens for the Age Group of 12 To 20.
- Theatre for the Family.
- Caribbean Dance Festival.
- Tobago Regional School of the Performing Arts.
- Community Talent Contest (C.T.C).
- In The Gayelle.
- "Carnival Characters Movement, History, Costume-making and Wire Bending Workshop" geared towards Carnival Caravan 2009.
- Season of Joy 2009.
- Gifted Student Programme.

AGRICULTURE, MARINE AFFAIRS, MARKETING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Key Agriculture and Related Initiatives for the Artisanal Fisherman.

We will ensure completion of the following: Charlotteville Jetty Extension, the new Scarborough Market, Market facilities at Delaford., Divisional Administrative Building, Jetty and Fishing Depot at Pigeon Point, the new Castara Fishing Depot.

We will also oversee: the upgrading of various fishing depots in Tobago to HAACP standards, construction of new Charlotteville fishing centre, upgrading of 50 km of access roads, construction of new Roxborough abattoir, establishment of two camping sites including one at Bloody Bay, a cassava production and marketing system for Tobago, a Speyside Marine Park area for conservation and research purposes, new Worker and Administrative facilities at Hope Farm.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC UTILITIES

In its next term, your PNM Government has the following key objectives:

- Extension of Store Bay Local Road
- Construction of overpasses at Wilson Road and Claude Noel Highway; and at Rockley Vale/Bacolet Connector Road.
- Dualling and extension of the Claude Noel Highway to Studley Park and beyond.
- Replacement of bridges at Lambeau River; Thompson River; Auchenskeoch River.
- Construction of Multi-Storey Car Park at Gardenside Street.
- Installation of Traffic Signals at Mt Marie and Claude Noel Highway Intersection; Shirvan Junction; and Buccoo Four Roads.
- Completion of Scarborough Library; Financial Complex; and Shaw Park Cultural Facility.
- Completion of Coastal Protection works at: Plymouth/Back Bay; Black Rock; Old Milford Road.
- Construction of New Licensing Office.

LAND MANAGEMENT

The PNM is acutely aware of the Tobagonians' historical and cultural affinity for land ownership and the associated benefit that such ownership can produce. The State is the largest landowner on the island, primarily because a PNM Government ensured that 13 estates were purchased from expatriate land owners. The PNM Government in Tobago has continued along that path of securing land as a part of the Tobagonian heritage. Plans for the utilization of these lands would be developed with the active participation of residents of Tobago, ensuring that due consideration is given to all potential beneficial uses. We are also painfully aware of the difficulties which private owners of land suffer in relation to titles and tenure arrangements. The PNM will regularize this situation in the next term by enacting appropriate legislation, which is already drafted, to bring relief to landowners.



THE NEXT FIVE YEARS ~ THE WAY FORWARD



Building on the tremendous advances of PNM administrations since 2001, here is a summary of the next exciting stage in the development of our remarkable nation. This is no dream. It is what the PNM, with its pledge to care for every citizen, is resolved to achieve, among many other things.

- A reformed local Government system that will deliver services with efficiency and cost effectiveness even as more quality jobs are created
- The continued enhancement and expansion of our road network system, that opens up the country so that no point of travel will be more than 2 ½ hours away from the other
- First-world transportation systems
- A more caring society; respect for the diversity of our people; equality of treatment for all citizens
- Increased transfers and subsidies for the elderly and disadvantaged groups
- An improved water production and delivery system based on plans developed in this period
- A new and improved electricity generation and transmission system
- A significant reduction in crime, caused by virtual elimination of Trinidad and Tobago as a trans-shipment point for illegal drugs, through effective deployment of our new military assets
- A sustained focus on the improvement of basic infrastructure in all areas of Trinidad and Tobago
- Enhanced trading and procurement facilitation through the introduction of a single electronic window
- Improved and transparent revenue collection
- An improved, effective and equitable justice system
- A world class motor vehicle authority that offers the level of service that meets expectations
- A return to vibrant economic growth and prosperity, with enhanced returns from our energy sector
- Reduced personal and corporate taxation
- Growth in our hotel stock to fulfil our destiny as 'a place where the world meets'
- A transformed, productive and customer-friendly public service
- World class telecommunications and information systems
- Acceleration of our national public housing programme, with delivery of up to 10,000 houses per year
- A world class primary, secondary and tertiary education system, free of charge to all citizens
- A vibrant agricultural sector
- A booming manufacturing and commercial sector
- Continued development and expansion of our tertiary education sector, incentives and programmes
- Continued expansion of our cultural and community facilities, and enhancement of incentives for our artistes and community groups
- Enhancement of our social programmes and widening of our social safety net
- Programmes that train, develop and reward our public servants for even better service
- A new national hospital construction programme and national health service as the basic building blocks for lasting and improvements in health care



