
Ministry of National Security’s Response to the 7th Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) for Fiscal 2021

Ministry of National Security (MNS)

1. Emergency Response Patrol (ERP) Response Times

ERP response times needed to be improved. For FY 2021, a target was set of reducing the average time taken to respond to calls by the ERP unit of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) to eight (8) minutes. The written submission dated from the MNS, however, indicated that the ERP response time as at June 2021 was 11 minutes and 30 seconds, which was slower than the previously recorded average of 10 minutes and 46 seconds as at June 2020. The corresponding figures for FY 2021 were, however not provided.

Recommendation

- **The MNS should provide to Parliament the weekly and monthly average response times for each week and month of FY 2021 as well as the average for the 12-month period, by December 31, 2022;**

Response

The average response time for the 12-month period from October 01, 2020 to September 30, 2021 was 11 minutes, 12 seconds (11.2 minutes). The weekly and monthly average response times for each week and month of Fiscal 2021 are detailed in tables (A) and (B) hereafter:

Table A: Weekly Average Response Times during the period October 01, 2020 to September 30, 2021

<u>Fiscal 2021</u>	<u>Average Response Time (mins)</u>
October 2020	10.4
week 40	11.0
week 41	10.1
week 42	10.8
week 43	10.4
week 44	10.1
November 2020	10.9
week 45	10.6
week 46	10.6
week 47	12.2
week 48	10.3
week 49	11.5
December 2020	11.6
week 49	10.7

<u>Fiscal 2021</u>	Average Response Time (mins)
week 50	4.8
week 51	11.7
week 52	11.8
week 53	13.6
January 2021	11.8
week 1	10.4
week 2	11.2
week 3	12.3
week 4	11.8
week 5	11.5
week 6	14.1
February 2021	11.5
week 6	11.0
week 7	11.1
week 8	12.7
week 9	11.2
week 10	10.0
March 2021	11.5
week 10	11.6
week 11	10.2
week 12	13.4
week 13	11.3
week 14	10.5
April 2021	11.6
week 14	12.5
week 15	11.9
week 16	12.2
week 17	10.7
week 18	11.1
May 2021	11.1
week 18	9.5
week 19	10.1
week 20	10.9
week 21	11.8
week 22	12.2
week 23	10.4
June 2021	11.5
week 23	10.8
week 24	12.1
week 25	11.5
week 26	11.4

<u>Fiscal 2021</u>	Average Response Time (mins)
week 27	11.6
July 2021	10.3
week 27	10.8
week 28	11.2
week 29	9.8
week 30	9.9
week 31	10.2
August 2021	10.9
week 32	10.7
week 33	10.4
week 34	12.3
week 35	10.7
week 36	10.5
September 2021	10.9
week 36	11.5
week 37	10.7
week 38	11.5
week 39	10.8
week 40	10.2

Table B: Monthly Average Response Times during the period October 01, 2020 to September 30, 2021

<u>Fiscal 2021</u>	No of Calls	Average Response Time (mins)
October 2020	970	10.4
November 2020	890	10.9
December 2020	590	11.6
January 2021	867	11.8
February 2021	722	11.5
March 2021	659	11.5
April 2021	672	11.6
May 2021	689	11.1
June 2021	692	11.5
July 2021	806	10.3
August 2021	833	10.9
September 2021	804	10.9
	9,194	11.2

Recommendation

- **The MNS should conduct analysis of the deterioration of the ERP response times and report to Parliament on the corrective steps to be taken based on this analysis by December 31, 2022.**

Response

An analysis of the deterioration of ERP response times was conducted by the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service. In this regard, the following information is relevant:

- i. At the end of June 2020, the Emergency Response Patrol Unit had a working serviceable fleet of approximately seventy (70) vehicles. These vehicles serviced the nine (9) Policing Divisions across the entire geographical area of Trinidad and Tobago.
- ii. By the end of June 2021, the number of working serviceable vehicles had diminished to approximately fifty-eight (58) vehicles, which was a seventeen percent (17%) decrease in working vehicles from the comparative 2020 period.
- iii. The reduction in the ERP fleet of vehicles was primarily as a result of vehicles being rendered inoperable from involvement in Road Traffic Accidents, with subsequent delays in repairs. Notwithstanding the reduction in the ERP fleet of vehicles, the operational vehicles were expected to patrol the same geographical area.
- iv. This decrease in working serviceable vehicles resulted in (a) fewer vehicles available to respond to calls for service, and (b) each patrol vehicle having cover a larger area on patrol. These situations negatively impacted the response time.

Consequently, the following **corrective steps** have been undertaken:

1. As per government mandate, the Vehicle Management Corporation of Trinidad and Tobago (VMCOTT) has been contracted as the service provider for vehicle repairs. In this regard, all efforts are being made to expedite repairs of TTPS vehicles, within the constraints of release of funding under the relevant Vote;
2. Timely completion and submission of files pertaining to Road Traffic Accidents involving police vehicles is receiving priority attention; and
3. Calls for service are also handled by other TTPS patrol vehicles as required.

2. Lack of Activity on Numerous Projects

There was little to no spending on a number of the MNS' PSIP projects in fiscal year 2021. This was similar to what was observed at the MOL. There was no spending on the following MNS projects:

- i. Supplemental works to air condition systems at the New Phase I Police Stations, as the TTPS was engaging the National Insurance Property Development Company LTD (NIPDEC) about the project;
- ii. Refurbishment of Residential Quarters – San Fernando, as the TTPS was awaiting the release of funds for the project;
- iii. Establishment of a Marine Division at the Carenage, as the project was in the design phase;
- iv. Establishment of a Marine Division in South Trinidad, as the project was still in the planning phases; and
- v. Construction of the Arouca fire station, as construction had not yet begun.

Recommendation

The MNS should report to Parliament on the following by December 31, 2022;

- i. **The results of the discussions with NIPDEC on the Supplemental works to air condition systems at the New Phase I Police Stations;**

Response

The outcome of the discussion with NIPDEC on the Supplemental works to air condition systems at the New Phase I Police Stations was for the TTPS to engage the project management services of NIPDEC for the supply, installation and commissioning of HVAC systems at the following eight (8) Police stations: Arima, Brasso Seco, Cumuto, La Brea, Maloney, Moruga, Oropouche and Piarco. Pursuant to that, the TTPS drafted a Note for Cabinet's consideration.

Recommendation

- ii. **Confirmation of whether the necessary funds were eventually released by the Ministry of Finance including, if they were indeed released**
 - **the sum requested and the date of the request; and**
 - **the sum released and the date of the release.**

Response

As regards the Refurbishment of Residential Quarters San Fernando, the following works were undertaken:

No.	Item	Request Date	Release Date	Releases	Fiscal 2021-2022	
					Expenditure	Status
1.	Refurbishment Works at the Residential Quarters – Substructure	April 28, 2022	June 21, 2022	TT\$24,068.00	TT\$24,067.72	Works completed Payment received
2.	Additional Works to the Demolition Works component at the Refurbishment Works at the Residential Quarters	December 14, 2021	January 05, 2022	TT\$37,755.00	TT\$37,755.00	Works completed Payment received
3.	Reconstruction Works at the Residential Quarters San Fernando (Demolition and Retaining Wall)	June 14, 2022	July 27, 2022	TT\$704,331.00	TT\$426,916.46	Works completed

***Please note that the sums released were consistent with the amounts requested.**

Recommendation

- iii. A status update on the planning process for the Establishment of the respective Marine Divisions in Carenage and South Trinidad;**

Response

As regards the establishment of a Marine Division in Carenage, the preliminary designs and scope of works were completed for the construction of a Jetty as well as a Maintenance and Operation Building. Currently, the TTPS is awaiting Cabinet’s consideration of the project details.

As regards the establishment of the Coastal and Riverine Unit in South Trinidad, this project is still in its planning phase as a location has not been identified in San Fernando.

Recommendation

- iv. Whether constructions were launched for the Arouca fire station, and confirmation of the expected completion timeline if it has indeed begun.**

Response

In 2017, it was determined that the construction of the Arouca fire station was to be managed by UDeCOTT. The project has seen a number of starts and stops since then. Most recently, on March 24, 2022 UDeCOTT submitted a revised proposal, which was reviewed and revised by the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service. Several deficiencies in UDeCOTT’s proposal were

identified, namely that critical requirements of the scope were not included in the document. The MNS and UDeCOTT met on October 14, 2022 to discuss said deficiencies, subsequent to which written communication was issued to UDeCOTT on October 18, 2022. UDeCOTT is currently engaged in developing the revised proposal and is expected to submit same by January 2023.