



Ministry of Planning and Development  
*Office of the Permanent Secretary*

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**PL&D: 6/12/3 Vol. VII Temp**

August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Ms. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel  
Clerk of the House  
Office of the Parliament  
Parliamentary Complex  
Cabildo Building  
St. Vincent Street  
**PORT OF SPAIN**


Dear Ms. Sampson-Meiguel,

**The Thirty-Second Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations in the Sixteenth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission for the financial years 2012 to 2015**

Your letter Parl.: 5/2/14 dated July 23, 2020 on the subject at caption refers.

Please find attached the response of the Ministry of Planning and Development to the Committee's recommendations on the Thirty-Second Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the follow-up on the implementation of recommendations on the examination of the Audited Financial Statements of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission for the financial years 2012 to 2015.

Sincerely,

  
Permanent Secretary  
Ministry of Planning and Development

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MINISTERIAL RESPONSE TO THE THIRTY-SECOND REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE FOLLOW-UP ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE SIXTEENTH REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE ON THE EXAMINATION OF THE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION FOR THE FINANCIAL YEARS 2012 – 2015.

**Recommendation:**

*The Environmental Management Authority should report to Parliament on the ways in which it could facilitate greater coordination among public authorities on renewable energy initiatives and its specific plans to lead this enhanced coordination by August 30, 2020.*

**Response:**

Due to the multi-dimensional nature of Renewable Energy (RE), there is a multiplicity of actors and legislation which govern various aspects of this economic sector. Coordination of these actors is critical for the mainstreaming of RE nationally.

The Renewable Energy Division (RED) of the Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries (MEEI) was established by Cabinet in 2018 with a specific mandate to lead on RE initiatives in keeping with the draft Renewable Energy Policy for Trinidad and Tobago. To date the RED has executed this *de facto* coordination role by way of establishing multiple multi-agency committees for the execution of notable RE initiatives; one of which includes the establishment of a 130 MW facility for the purpose of RE-based electricity generation.

The Environmental Management Authority (EMA) is steadfast in playing a supportive role to the RED-MEEI in keeping with our Strategic Plan 2017-2021 which calls for the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) to “*facilitate initiatives led by the MEEI as it relates to RE and Energy Efficiency*”.

Some of the ways that the EMA has supported the MEEI and facilitated RE initiatives include, but are not limited to:

**a. Leveraging its expertise and stakeholder networks to the benefit of Cabinet-Appointed Inter-Agency Committees on RE.**

This has been routinely done by the EMA in recent history where it has had a pivotal supporting role on several RE Committees chaired by the Ministry of Planning and Development, and Ministry of Energy and Energy Industries. Notable examples include: “Technical Steering Committee for the Development of an Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency Plan for Trinidad and Tobago”; “Evaluation Committee for the Expressions of Interest for a Waste to Energy Facility” and “The Technical Steering Committee and Bid-Evaluation Committee for the Supply of a 130 MW of Electricity Generation from RE Resources”.

**b. Establishing the groundwork to secure international climate financing for RE projects.**

The EMA has been involved in the identification and development of pre-requisite documents, policies and proposals that provide the foundation for attaining international financing for RE projects. Examples include:

- contributions to Trinidad and Tobago’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Action Plan (2017) which identifies Renewable Energy as a cornerstone of its success;
- on-going Technical Needs Assessment (2019 - present) for climate change adaptation led by the Ministry of Planning and Development which considers RE as a critical measure for resilience building across multiple sectors; and
- on-going (2018-present) efforts to become accredited to the Green Climate Fund for access to international climate financing.

**c. Building its technical and legislative capacity to support the implementation of RE.**

The EMA has had a history of continuous improvement training of staff to build its capacity to address climate change however, focus has not been given explicitly to RE and RE skills to date. Lessons learnt from its experiences and awareness of the requirements of contemporary policy such as the National Energy Conservation and Energy Efficiency Action Plan suggests that the EMA should actively seek to build its technical capacity in the areas of: Energy Performance Contracting (EPC), Energy Auditing, Agile Project Management, and Certified Energy Manager (CEM).

The EMA recognizes that its primary and secondary legislation must be updated to address contemporary issues such as RE which has not been explicitly considered. By modernizing laws such as the CEC Rules, 2001 the EMA will also be able to better regulate and manage the environmental impact of RE projects.

**d. Establishing/Supporting Committees, Working-groups and Advisory Boards to address the issue of RE.**

Under Section 13 of the Environment Management Act, the Board of Directors of the EMA has the power and authority to establish inter-agency/inter-ministerial committees, working-groups, and advisory boards. This mechanism has been successfully used in the past to address other areas of environmental importance. Example: the establishment of an Expert Review Panel for the development of the 2018 National Environmental Policy (NEP). Likewise, an established working-group can be developed to advance RE coordination nationally.

Moving forward, the EMA will serve as Chairman and Secretariat to the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSDD) whose establishment was mandated in the 2018 NEP. This Cabinet-appointed NCSDD (and its subsidiary working groups) will have an oversight and advisory function to national plans to address the 2018 NEP's priority areas, which includes RE.

The following initiatives regarding RE have also been undertaken by the EMA to encourage public awareness:

**a. Promoting RE implementation and awareness of actors/programmes through public education.**

- Awareness of RE is promoted by the EMA through social and print media as a component of the NEP Priority Area; "Addressing Climate Change and Environmental and Natural Disaster". This is in keeping with the EMA's general mandate for public education on environmental matters.
- The EMA has used the "Green Leaf Awards" to recognize and promote national actors who utilize RE or undertake high-impact energy conservation projects in the national community. Examples of RE/EE Awardees include Adventure Farms and Eco Villas for their use of solar energy on their 12 acre organic farm in Tobago (2010) and the Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs 2014 National Energy Communication Campaign.