



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Youth Development and National Service

MYDNS: 36/3/3 Vol. III

12th December 2022

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 Seventh Report of the Public Administration and Appropriation Committee on the examination into the implementation of the Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP) for the fiscal year 2021.

I refer to your letter Parl.: 5/6/21 dated November 22, 2022, on the subject at caption and submit herewith the response of the Ministry of Youth Development and National Service to the findings and recommendations of the Public Administration and Appropriation Committee (PAAC) as outlined on pages eighteen (18), nineteen (19) and twenty (20) of its Seventh Report. For further information on this matter, your office may contact Mr Roddy Beharry, Senior Planning Officer (Ag.), at Roddy.Beharry@gov.tt or 612-9367 Ext. 5204.

Respectfully,

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FAROOK HOSEIN
PERMANENT SECRETARY

PERMANENT SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
AND NATIONAL SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
Level 4, #2 Elizabeth Street, St. Clair
PBX: (868) 612-9367
www.mydns.gov.tt



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Youth Development and National Service

**RESPONSE TO THE SEVENTH REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS AND
APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE ON THE EXAMINATION INTO THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT PROGRAMME
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021**

Recommendations:

- ***The MYDNS should briefly explain the following regarding the National Youth Policy 2020- 2025 by December 31, 2022;***
 - i. Whether there was a shift that led to the proposed National Youth Employment Policy 2018-2023 being incorporated into the overarching National Youth Policy; and***
 - ii. A status update on the implementation of the National Youth Policy.***

RESPONSE

i. It is the view of the MYDNS that the objectives of a National Youth Employment Policy would be covered in the overarching National Youth Policy (NYP), which is a national document that addresses, inter alia, the issue of youth employment.

The NYP provides specific guidance and direction through the strategies listed under *Pillar 1*. - *Prioritizing youth economic participation and empowerment* to stakeholders such as employers in both the private and public sector to ensure that youth economic participation is prioritized and incentivised towards:

- enhanced youth economic participation;
- youth economic empowerment; and
- the creation of an internationally accredited ecosystem to support youth innovation.

ii. With respect to the status of the implementation of the NYP, the MYDNS is currently guided by the strategies under the various pillars of the NYP in formulating and implementing its programmes, projects and youth-centric activities. The following are some of the achievements which were informed by the eight strategic pillars of the NYP to date:

- **Pillar 1. Prioritizing youth economic participation and empowerment** – In fiscal 2022, the MYDNS hosted several training programmes in nontraditional training areas, such as heavy equipment and music training to provide young people with skills to become employable in the construction, manufacturing and entertainment industries. Two such courses were the Alternative Learning and Life Skills Enhancement Training



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(ALL SET) and A Music Production and Lifeskills Initiative for Youth Development (AMPLIFY) delivered through a partnership between the MYDNS and the National Energy Skills Center (NESC). Two hundred (200) young people between the ages of 16 and 35 years parted in these courses, which were designed to satisfy the objectives of Pillar 1.

- **Pillar 2. Harnessing youth social and intellectual capital** - In fiscal years 2021, and 2022 the Ministry implemented courses on the Skills for a Technological and Diversified Economy, specifically Coding, Mobile App Development and Web Design to build youth social and intellectual capital to navigate the digital economy of the 21st century. These sought to equip young people with the necessary skills and competencies to utilize Information and Communications Technology (ICT) tools necessary for business development.
- **Pillar 3. Facilitating inclusive and active youth participation in the civic and democratic life of Trinidad and Tobago.** –In fiscal 2022, the Ministry provided capacity building and intuitional strengthening training to one hundred (100) young persons between the ages of 16 and 35 years from youth-led and youth-serving organizations, through the National Leadership Training Programme. This training programme was designed to empower youth to become active change agents at the community and national levels and was delivered through the University of the West Indies, St Augustine Campus.
- **Pillar 4. Creating safe spaces, peaceful communities, and environments** - The Ministry is committed to the provision of modernized and secure residential and non-residential facilities for youth development in Trinidad and Tobago. In fiscal 2022, the Ministry continued its programme of expansion, refurbishment and renovation of the suite of youth development centres to make them “fit for purpose”. The physical works, curriculum management, and rebranding of these facilities are informed by the Report of a Cabinet Appointed Advisory Committee of experts and youth development stakeholders.
- **Pillar 5. Accentuating holistic youth health and wellbeing** - The Ministry continues to work with local and regional stakeholders to promote the healthy lifestyle and well-being of 500,000 plus youth. In fiscal 2022, the Ministry partnered with the CARICOM Secretariat to host a satellite center for the 2nd Caribbean Congress on youth health needs and areas requiring policy change and programmatic support. Additionally, to raise awareness of the health concerns regarding HIV and AIDS, the MYDNS is represented on the National AIDS Coordinating Committee, where it launched three videos in observation of World Aids Day on the Ministry’s webpage (<https://www.mydns.gov.tt>).



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- **Pillar 6. Emphasizing youth contributions to rural transformation, agricultural production, and food security** - The MYDNS, under this Pillar, launched two programmes, namely, the Youth Agricultural Homestead Programme (YAHP) and the Shade House Programme. Both programmes are geared towards training youth in modern cultivation techniques to increase the yield and quality of produce for commercial markets. The YAHP commenced in August 2022, and the Shade House Programme was launched on 13 October 2022 with two hundred (200) and one hundred (100) young persons, respectively.

- **Pillar 7. Supporting youth action on climate change, environmental sustainability, and climate justice.** The Ministry is cognizant of the need to promote environmentally conscious interventions to support youth action on climate change, environmental sustainability, and climate justice. For fiscal 2021, the Ministry, through the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which is a programme under the remit of the Specialized Youth Service Programme (SYSP), continued to train young people between the ages 16-25 years to develop an understanding and sensitivity to the natural environment through activities such as disaster preparedness training, reforestation initiatives and community environmental and beautification projects.

- **Pillar 8: Creating an enabling environment for positive youth development in Trinidad and Tobago** – In March 2022, Cabinet accepted the recommendations of the Minister of Youth Development and National Service for the establishment of a National Youth Development Agency of Trinidad and Tobago (NYDATT). This Agency will precipitate a myriad of benefits to implement coordinated youth development in Trinidad and Tobago, including:
 - (i) improved efficiency and increased effectiveness, to:
 - facilitate the implementation of a Fit-for-Purpose curriculum in the Youth Development and Apprenticeship Centers (YDACs), Non- Residential Youth Development Centres and National Transition Homes;
 - improve coordination as complementary management models would be utilised for both residential and non-residential programmes;
 - reduce duplication of resources, as one body will be responsible for procurement and distribution of resources.

 - (ii) facilitation of self-sufficiency and financial sustainability, since the NYDATT will:
 - facilitate revenue generation and savings, and promote self-sufficiency through agricultural production at the YDACs;
 - establish private-public partnerships;
 - source regional and international youth grant funding.



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- (iii) advancement of sustainable youth development by:
- continuously providing innovative and evolving curricula;
 - building on opportunities in the environment;
 - being adaptable to youth needs.

- *The MYDNS should report to Parliament on the results of the Coding, Mobile App Development and Web Page Design training programmes and whether similar training will be offered on an ongoing basis, by December 31, 2022;*

RESPONSE

The training programmes for the three ICT courses of Coding, Mobile Application Development and Web Page Design was implemented in 2021 and 2022 and will be offered on an ongoing basis in 2023. The Ministry intends to continue formulating and implementing courses in the ICT field to ensure that youth are equipped with the skills necessary to navigate the digitalized marketing platform.

In fiscal 2021, three cohorts of fifty totaling one hundred and fifty (150) young people between the ages 16-35 years enrolled in the Coding, Mobile Application Development and Web Page Design training programmes. At the end of the programme, the number of graduates were as follows:

- Coding – Forty-one (41);
- Web Design – Thirty-four (34);
- Introduction to Mobile Application Development – Twenty-five (25).

In Fiscal 2022, the MYDNS continued and expanded the three courses to three cohorts of one hundred and fifty (150) totaling four hundred and fifty (450) young persons between the ages of 16-35 for the Coding, Mobile Application Development and Web Page Design training programmes respectively. At the end of the programmes, the number of graduates were as follows:

- Coding – Forty-one (41);
- Web Design – Thirty-four (34);
- Introduction to Mobile Application Development – Twenty-five (25).

In fiscal 2023, the Ministry has scheduled the training of one hundred (100) youth in each of the three ICT training areas of Coding, Mobile Application Development and Web Page Design. Additionally, through the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme Ltd. (YTEPP), the MYDNS will be offering two hundred (200) young people between the ages of 16-35 years training in two additional ICT related areas, namely **Introduction to Mobile Phone and Tablet Repairs** and **Computer Maintenance and Troubleshooting**.



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- *The MYDNS should provide a status update and estimated timeline for the completion of the Project Screening Brief for the National Youth Employment Policy by December 31, 2022; and*

RESPONSE

The MYDNS as articulated in its written response above on the subject of a National Youth Employment Policy, is of the view, that given the nature of the National Youth Policy 2020-2025 (NYP) being a comprehensive policy document on youth development, it is not necessary to formulate an additional policy or project screening brief for youth employment. It is reiterated that the NYP would provide guidance and direction through the strategies listed under:

“Pillar 1. – Prioritizing youth economic participation and empowerment to stakeholder such as employers in both the private and public sector to ensure youth economic participation is prioritized and incentivized”.

- *The MYDNS should report to Parliament by December 31, 2022 on how it intends to quantify the impact of its initiatives focused on encouraging youth economic participation on the youth unemployment rate.*

RESPONSE

The MYDNS through its Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit has developed and is currently implementing the MYDNS M&E Strategy and Action Plan. Under this plan all interventions/ programmes are required to establish participant baselines to gauge where participants are at when enrolling into the MYDNS Programmes.

Subsequently, Feedback Surveys, Ex-Post Evaluations and Tracer Studies are scheduled to be conducted to track attitudinal, behavioral and socio-economic changes of participants who graduate from the MYDNS programmes. Reports are prepared and recommendations are made on the execution of future programmes to enhance effectiveness and impact.