



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & LOCAL GOVERNMENT

MRDLG Ref.: 7/17/4 Vol. II

February 07, 2022

Clerk of the House
Office of the Parliament
Parliamentary Complex
Cabildo Building
St. Vincent Street
Port of Spain.



Attention: Ms. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel

Dear Madam,

Re: Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Finance and Legal Affairs on an inquiry into the Status of Un-proclaimed Legislation (Part 1): The Planning and Facilitation of Development Act, 2014 and the Data Protection Act, Chapter 22:04, First Session (2020/2021), Twelfth Parliament

Reference is made to the matter at caption and to your correspondence *Parl: 14/3/69 Vol. IV* dated January 05, 2022.

As requested, the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government hereby submits a written response to the findings and recommendations of the aforementioned Committee. A hard copy of this document is appended for ease of reference. Please note that the electronic copy of same will be emailed to your office today.

Yours respectfully

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Rural Development & Local Government

Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Rural Development
and Local Government

encl.

Office of the Permanent Secretary

Kent House, Long Circular Road, Maraval, Trinidad W.I.

Tel/Fax (868) 622-7410/622-1979 Ext 3202/3207 E-mail: localgovps@gov.tt

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MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ministerial Response to Recommendations of the Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Finance and Legal Affairs on an Inquiry into the Status of the Un-proclaimed Legislation (Part 1): The Planning and Facilitation of Development Act, 2014

2.26 Based on the foregoing, the Committee submits the following recommendations:

- ii. In anticipation of the assignment of additional responsibilities to Municipal Corporations upon the full proclamation of the PAFD Act, 2014, the MRDLG should collaborate with the 14 Municipal Corporations with the aim of conducting a Training Needs Assessment for staff of each Municipal Corporation in order to identify the gaps in skill level/ capacity development of personnel who are expected to execute responsibilities related to the regulation of development activities. Perhaps lessons can be drawn from the ongoing efforts to implement the new Public Procurement regime which also required the institutional development of several state bodies including Municipal Corporations.**

Response:

Collaboration between the Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD) and the Ministry of Rural Development (MRDLG), and by extension the fourteen Municipal Corporations, has been in effect for quite some time in anticipation of the full proclamation of the PAFD Act, 2014. The MRDLG has played a coordinating role to ensure that Training Needs Assessments conducted in the past at the Corporations were carried out efficiently and effectively. For example, the successful implementation of the Automation of the Construction Permitting System (ACPS) at Municipal Corporations thus far can be attributed to the close collaboration between the MRDLG and DevelopTT. Through this partnership, gaps were identified at the Corporations' Building Inspectorates and the remedial capacity development initiatives are currently being implemented. As a consequence, Engineers, Building Inspectors and Public Health Officers are now more adequately equipped to facilitate the ACPS, which is seen as a significant facet of development in the context of the PAFD Act, 2014.

As far as the institutional development of the Corporations is concerned, collaboration continues between the MRDLG and the MPD in order to devise measures aimed at being in a state of readiness for the full proclamation of the PAFD Act, 2014.

- iv. The MPD in conjunction with the MRDLG consider the preparation of a handbook to streamline and strategize the enforcement measures to be undertaken by officers within the Spatial Planning Units of the Municipal Corporations.**

Response:

The MRDLG has been informed that the MPD has already developed such a handbook which has served as an important tool in guiding officers of the Town and Country Planning Department (TCPD) Enforcement Unit. The MPD has indicated that this handbook is currently being revised and the updated version would be made available to the Municipal Corporations to assist in streamlining and strategizing the enforcement measures in alignment with the PAFD Act, 2014.