



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Local Government

23rd February, 2015

Ms. Jacqui Sampson Meiguel
Clerk of the House
Parliament
Levels G - 7 Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Centre
1A Wrightson Road,
Port of Spain.

Dear Ms. Sampson Meiguel,

Response to the Sixteenth Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to inquire into and report to Parliament on Municipal Corporations and Service Commissions on the Administration and Operations of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation

I refer to the Report laid in the Senate on November 25th 2014 and the House of Representatives on November 28th, 2014.

The Ministry of Local Government submits the written response to the findings and recommendations as outlined on pages thirty two (32) and forty seven (47) for the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation by the Joint Select Committee (see attached).

Should you require any further information please contact Ms. Kofi Chapman, Economist I, Planning Unit Ministry of Local Government at 628-5220 (phone/fax) or email chapmanko@gov.tt (email).

Permanent Secretary
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SANGRE GRANDE REGIONAL CORPORATION



Written Responses to the Sixteenth (16th) Report of the Joint Select Committee appointed to inquire into and report to Parliament on Municipal Corporations and Service Commissions on the Administration and Operations of the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation.



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Human Resources

- I – IV: The Corporation noted all the recommendations with respect to human resources. There is on-going dialogue and communication with all the parties responsible for building capacity, motivating employees and designing structured approaches to training and development of all staff.

Financial Management

- I. The recommendation is noted. This item will be pursued and a comprehensive plan for revenue generation will be undertaken in 2015. At the Finance, Planning and Allocation of Resources Committee of the Council there is some discussion.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSE

- II. (a) At present, there is no private/public collaborative initiative at the Corporation. However, it is the intention of the Corporation to pursue the collaborations which will be initiated in 2015.

However, there are partnership initiatives with other State Agencies such as:

- (1) Trinidad & Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC)-lighting of Recreation Grounds
- (2) Vehicle Management Company of Trinidad & Tobago-Vehicle maintenance (at a cost)
- (3) Rural Development Company Limited.
- (4) Ministry of Science and Technology (On-the-Job Training).
- (5) Trinidad and Tobago Postal Agency (TTPOST)-Assigning of Postal Codes.
- (6) Ministry of Education-Development of School Recreation Grounds.

- (b) The Sangre Grande Regional Corporation has on its list of assets, a four (4) hectare parcel of land situated at Turure Road, Guaico, Sangre Grande. This parcel of land was originally earmarked for the construction of an Administrative Complex for the Region. However, other arrangements are being made for the construction of this Administrative Complex. This arrangement involves the Ministry of Local Government, Sangre Grande Regional Corporation and the Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) utilizing lands vested in the PTSC.

In an effort therefore to utilize the lands at Turure, the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation has embarked on the construction of a modern garage facility which would provide repair and maintenance service for its growing fleet of vehicles. This project is being executed under its Spatial Development Plan and is being undertaken in phases.

- The first (1st) phase comprises the erection of portal frame, ground floor and mezzanine floor, which has been completed.
- The second (2nd) phase includes the block works, finishing, equipment, air-conditioning and electrical works, which is 80% completed.
- The third (3rd) phase would entail the construction of external drains, the estimates of which has been submitted to the Ministry of Local Government for approval and funding. To be completed in 2015.
- The fourth (4th) phase would include the construction of roadway and car park facilities, security fencing and lighting. This would be undertaken in a subsequent Development Programme.
- The fifth (5th) phase will entail outfitting of the offices. Phases 4 and 5 are expected to be completed in 2016.

Details of the Expenditure items are as follows:

005 Local Health Authority

28- Other Contracted Services- This item of expenditure used for the payments to scavenging services (Fifteen areas inclusive of Sangre Grande Market and Abbatoir) i.e. Both compactor (household garbage) and open tray service (bulky waste).

Where savings are derived, small environmental clean-up projects are done in various areas within the Sangre Grande Region. For example, clearing of vacant lots, cleaning and desilting of drains.

III. A proposal has been brought to the table which includes:

- 1) The invention of an Employee Assistance Programme which is conducted by the Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago Limited (PETROTRIN).
- 2) A collaborative effort with the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) to utilize their Psychiatric Unit to undertake some screening.

IV. The filling of the position of Chief Financial Officer is an ongoing matter with the Ministry of Local Government.

Public Health

- I. (a) The Occupational Safety and Health (OSHA) Act 2014. The Sangre Grande Regional Corporation is committed to the compliance of the OSHA Act 2014. To this end, the Corporation has recruited a Safety Officer as part of its initiative to create an Occupational Safety and Department.
 - (b) Established an Occupational Safety and Health Committee.
 - (c) Provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for employees.
 - (d) Installation of safety equipment to its buildings.
 - (e) Conducting of air quality testing in the main office
- II. Training for Litter Wardens are ongoing. Some areas are courtroom procedures conducted by the National Training Agency (NTA) and training from the Eastern Regional Health Authority (ERHA) on the preventative approaches to Dengue and Chikungunya viruses.
- III. The Sangre Grande Regional Corporation is communicating with the Ministry of Local Government to provide supplement specialist positions for the Public Health section to allow to service the large municipality (898.8 km^2).

MINISTERIAL RESPONSE

- IV. The Sangre Grande Regional Corporation is committed to recycling waste created by its burgesses. To this end, the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation has engaged the following stakeholders in this project:
 - Ace Recycling Ltd.
 - Carib Glassworks Ltd.
 - Caribbean Tech Disposals Ltd.
 - Piranha International Ltd.
 - Secure Recycling Ltd.
 - Studley Park Industrial Waste Disposal Facility
 - Trinidad & Tobago Solid Waste Management Co. ltd.
 - Technical Systems Ltd.
 - Trinidad Recycling & Trading Company Ltd.
 - Recyclage E-Waste Management Ltd.
 - Waste Disposal Ltd.
 - Waste Plastic Recovery Ltd.

It is expected that the above stakeholders partner with the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation towards a plan to generate revenue by means of segregation and recycling of waste. This project will also assist with the eradication of poverty and increase in sustainable employment within the Region.

A plan and implementation schedule is not yet formulated. However, efforts will be made to commence this exercise in 2015.

- V. The Sangre Grande Regional Corporation will engage in dialogue with the Ministry of Transport with respect to developing a policy regarding the disposal of derelict vehicles within the Municipality. This is expected to commence in 2015.

Infrastructural Development

- I. The recommendation on the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation and Vehicle Management Company of Trinidad and Tobago is a work in progress. It is intended that on the completion of the workshop at Turure a joint venture arrangement to manage and operate the facility by VMCOTT could be entered into from which revenue could be generated for the Corporation.
- II. The Sangre Grande Regional Corporation has embarked on the construction of a modern garage facility which is expected to be completed in 2015. This facility will be used for repair and storage of vehicles.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSE

- III. The Spatial Development Plan as informed by the Draft Municipal Development Plan 2010-2020 is still relevant to the Sangre Grande Regional Corporation. "*The upgrading and enhancement of Sangre Grande as a Municipal Centre.*" The first (1st) phase is presently ongoing which is the construction of the Turure garage facility and the relocation of the Public Transport Service Corporation (PTSC) garage to this location. This will allow for the construction of the second (2nd) phase, an Administrative building. With the passage of the Planning and Facilitation Development Act 2014 and the establishment of Spatial Planning Unit at Corporations, it has been indicated that all Draft Municipal Development be revisited. As such, new time frames will be assigned.

Disaster Management

Stakeholders

- I. The Disaster Management Unit engages with stakeholders one of which is the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) on a regular basis as training is provided to staff members in different aspects of emergency management. E.g. Web Based Emergency Operations Centre (Web-EOC), Initial Damage Assessment (IDA), Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to name a few.

- II. Municipal Disaster Management Plan

The Sangre Grande Regional Corporation's Disaster Management Unit has developed a Disaster Management Plan but because of staff removal and transfers within the Corporation changes are made to the plan as it becomes necessary. The plan will be tested in 2015.

Shelter Management Plan

Shelter Management has been carded for this year 2015. We propose to train persons from the Region to manage shelters.

Early Warning System

With regards to the setting up of early warning systems, a Cuban pilot scheme was developed in Mayaro/Rio Claro Regional Corporation on a phased basis, commencing 2015.

A customised model for suited for the Sangre Grande Regional Coporation will be implemented.

MINISTERIAL RESPONSE

- III. Coastal Erosion

With regards to alleviating coastal erosion in the Region, the Ministry of Works (Critical Coastal Protection Unit) has eight (8) projects to be executed by the Coastal Protection Unit between Matelot Point and Radix Point.

These projects will occur along the east Coast and North Coast (Please see attached).

The Corporation is prepared to partner with the Unit to lend support where it is deemed necessary.

SUMMARY OF THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND INFRASTRUCTURE CRITICAL COASTAL PROTECTION PROGRAMME

PROJECTS TO BE EXECUTED BY THE COASTAL PROTECTION UNIT BETWEEN MATELOT POINT AND RADIX POINT

Item	Coastline	Project Name	Project Description
1	East Coast	Manzanilla Beach Facility Seawall Stabilization Works	Rehabilitation of the existing concrete seawall which will include the installation of 252 linear meters of vinyl sheetpiles. Reconstruction of access stairs and ramps and the installation of 252 linear meters of safety railings.
2		South Cocos Bay Shoreline Stabilization Works	Construction of 800 linear meters of rubble mound revetment south of the Nariva River Mouth.
3		Cocos Bay Shoreline Flood Alleviation Project	Construction of 800 linear meters of a sand dyke and revetment along Cocos Bay
4		North Cocos Bay Shoreline Stabilization Works	Construction of 100 linear meters of seawall with toe protection. Provision of berthing and landing facilities to sustain fish landing including the construction of a slipway, construction of a landing shed, paving and drainage works.
5		Mayaro/Guayaguayare Coastal Studies	Consultancy Services for the design of short, medium and long term coastal protection interventions along the Mayaro and Guayaguayare shoreline.
6		Shoreline Management Plan for Manzanilla Beach (Manzanilla Point to Point Radix)	Consultancy services for the conduct of relevant studies along Manzanilla Beach in order to determine the most technically, environmentally and economically feasible alternatives for (i) mitigation of the coastal erosion and (ii) enhancement of the Manzanilla Beach.
7	North Coast	Matelot Shoreline Stabilization Works Phase I	Implementation of coastal intervention measures developed under the Matelot-Grande Riviere Shoreline Stabilization Works - Phase II
8		Matelot Shoreline Stabilization Works Phase II	Implementation of coastal intervention measures developed under the Matelot-Grande Riviere Shoreline Stabilization Works - Phase II