



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

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**MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

28th December 2022

Ms. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel  
Clerk of the House  
Public Administration and  
Appropriations Committee  
Office of the Parliament  
Parliamentary Complex  
Cabildo Building  
St. Vincent Street  
Port of Spain

Dear Madam,

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

Reference is made to your correspondence, Parl:5/6/21, dated November 22<sup>nd</sup> 2022 on the above captioned subject.

In that regard, please find attached as requested, the response of the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government, to the recommendations/comments in the Seventh Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, as it relates to the implementation of the Public Sector Investment Programmes (PSIP) for fiscal year 2021.

Kindly note that an electronic copy has also been sent to [coth@parliament.org](mailto:coth@parliament.org) as requested. Thank you.

Respectfully

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**Permanent Secretary**  
**Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development**  
**Ministry of Rural Development**  
**and Local Government**

SEVENTH REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE ON THE EXAMINATION INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PUBLIC SECTOR INVESTMENT PROGRAMME (PPIP) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021

ISSUES	OBSERVATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS	MINISTRY'S RESPONSES
<p>1. Challenges in Flood Prone Areas</p>	<p><b>There was room for improvement in addressing issues in areas habitually affected by flooding.</b></p> <p>The Committee asked the MRDLG about its contingency plans for flood prone areas. The Ministry's initial written submission indicated the purchase of radios, public address systems and amphibious vehicles, as an aspect of flooding response efforts. The radios were purchased and the public address systems were awaiting approval.</p> <p>The amphibious vehicles, however, were not procured. Due to the considerable expense involved, of approximately three million (\$3Mn) per vehicle, in addition to the cost of training staff to operate the vehicles, the MRDLG did not allocate funding for this purchase. The MRDLG opted to use dingies instead. They are due to be placed throughout flood prone corporations. Flood response efforts will also be strengthened by the addition of</p>	<p>The MRDLG should provide a status report on the following to Parliament by December 31, 2022:</p> <p>i. The number of dinghies distributed, broken down for each flood prone corporation;</p>	<p>i. The MRDLG did not purchase dinghies to be distributed, however, some municipal corporations purchased and/or received donations of dinghies for shallow water rescues. The flood prone corporations below are equipped with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Penal Debe Regional Corporation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two (2) working high density polyethylene dinghies</li> </ul> </li> <li>Tunapuna Piarco Regional Corporation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Two (2) working high density polyethylene dinghies</li> </ul> </li> <li>Mayaro Rio Claro Regional Corporation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One (1) Inflatable dinghy with aluminium floorboard</li> <li>- One (1) working high density polyethylene dinghy</li> <li>- One (1) fiberglass Progue</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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	<p>volunteers who have received the Ministry's Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training.</p>	<p>ii. The total cost of the dinghies;</p>	<p>Sangre Grande Regional Corporation                      - Two (2) working high density polyethylene dinghies</p> <p>ii. If the MRDLG purchases dinghies, it will consider an inflatable dinghy with a high density polythene and aluminium floorboard and an outboard engine, specifically for the following municipal corporations: Penal/Debe Regional Corporation, Tunapuna / Piarco Regional Corporation, Mayaro Rio Claro Regional Corporation, Sangre Grande Regional Corporation, Couva Tabaquite Talparo Regional Corporation, San Juan Laventille Regional Corporation (El Socorro, South) and Siparia Regional Corporation (Woodland) . The estimated total cost would be TT\$600,000.00</p>

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		<p>iii. A breakdown of the of volunteers who received CERT training in FY 2021;</p> <p>iv. The allocation of radios to each flood prone corporation;</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="1224 1482 1281 1864">iii. Corporation</th> <th data-bbox="1224 1864 1281 1995">Cert Training</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Atrina Borough Corporation</td> <td>71</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chaguanaas Borough Corporation</td> <td>93</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo Regional Corporation</td> <td>141</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Diego Martin Regional Corporation</td> <td>81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mayaro / Rio Claro Regional Corporation</td> <td>155</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Penal//Debe Regional Corporation</td> <td>44</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Point Fortin Borough Corporation</td> <td>67</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Princes Town Regional Corporation</td> <td>109</td> </tr> <tr> <td>San Fernando City Corporation</td> <td>69</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sangre Grande Regional Corporation</td> <td>81</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Siparia Regional Corporation</td> <td>77</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation</td> <td>199</td> </tr> <tr> <td>San Juan/ Laventille Regional Corporation</td> <td>124</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Port Of Spain City Corporation</td> <td>45</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total no of CERT Volunteers Trained in FY 2021</b></td> <td><b>1356</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>iv. The MRDLG purchased fifteen (15) two-way radio base stations and provided one to each municipal corporation, including the MRDLG (Kent House). Furthermore, each municipal corporation appropriated funds from their respective budgets to outfit their municipal DMU and DMU vehicles with radio systems.</p>	iii. Corporation	Cert Training	Atrina Borough Corporation	71	Chaguanaas Borough Corporation	93	Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo Regional Corporation	141	Diego Martin Regional Corporation	81	Mayaro / Rio Claro Regional Corporation	155	Penal//Debe Regional Corporation	44	Point Fortin Borough Corporation	67	Princes Town Regional Corporation	109	San Fernando City Corporation	69	Sangre Grande Regional Corporation	81	Siparia Regional Corporation	77	Tunapuna/Piarco Regional Corporation	199	San Juan/ Laventille Regional Corporation	124	Port Of Spain City Corporation	45	<b>Total no of CERT Volunteers Trained in FY 2021</b>	<b>1356</b>
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		<p>v. Plans for acquisition of amphibious vehicles; and</p> <p>vi. Possible arrangements with the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission for use of the Commission's amphibious vehicle in the interim.</p>	<p>v. Due to the high cost of acquisition and maintenance, as well as the fact that dinghies have been shown to be effective for shallow water rescues for civilian use, the MRDLG is not interested in purchasing amphibious vehicles at this time. The Fire Service and Coast Guard of Trinidad and Tobago are professional first responders in charge of search and rescue, including shallow and deep-water rescues.</p> <p>vi. The MRDLG will gladly collaborate with T&amp;TEC to bring impacted citizens to safety.</p>