



Government of the Republic  
of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of  
Trade and Industry

ANNUAL  
ADMINISTRATIVE  
REPORT  
2018

# COI

<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>2.0 VISION, MISSION AND STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1 Vision of MTI	2
2.2 Mission of MTI	2
2.3 Strategic Framework of the MTI	2
<b>3.0 ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE</b>	<b>4</b>
3.1 Organisational Profile	4
3.2 Corporate Structure	4

# Contents

## 4.0 POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES

- 4.1 Diversified and Competitive Businesses 9
- 4.2 Increased Investment 14
- 4.3 Expanded and Diversified Regional and International Trade 18
- 4.4 Enhanced Protection and Empowerment of Consumers 21
- 4.5 Transformed Ministry Performance and Service Delivery 21

## 5.0 FINANCIAL OPERATIONS 23

- 5.1 Capital Expenditure 23

## 6.0 HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN 25

## 7.0 PROCUREMENT PROCEDURES 26

## 8.0 PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS 27

## 9.0 THE WAY FORWARD 29

## 10.0 CONCLUSION 31



# 1.0 Introduction

The MTI is responsible for spearheading the execution of government policy under the remit for business development, trade, investment and consumer empowerment.

To execute its mandate in Fiscal 2018, the MTI developed its annual work plan which identified initiatives to create an enabling environment to support economic diversification and international competitiveness; support the growth of exports and investments and empower consumers.

During Fiscal 2018, the MTI successfully executed a number of initiatives identified within its work plan. These initiatives included pursuing reforms to improve the ease of doing business in Trinidad and Tobago and establishment of an Investment Facilitation Committee which aided in closing a number of investments. To further encourage investments in Trinidad and Tobago, the MTI began implementation of the Special Economic Zone Policy which was approved by Cabinet.

In Fiscal 2018, the MTI also sought to increase exports through the launch of the National Quality Policy which is aimed at developing a functional and effective National Quality Infrastructure which would provide the necessary support to allow an increase in exports to international markets; the implementation of the Aid for Trade Strategy which is aimed at mobilising resources from donor agencies to assist in private sector development. Through exportTT, the MTI continued the implementation of the Food and Safety Modernisation Programme and Export Capacity Building Programme and conducted a number of trade missions to explore and enhance trade opportunities in Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and Guyana.

To contribute to Trinidad and Tobago's economic diversification, the MTI launched a Grant Fund Facility (GFF) which provides financing to support Small and Medium-Sized (SMEs) export-oriented entrepreneurs and import substitution-gearred businesses in manufacturing and agro-processing for the acquisition of machinery and equipment. Through MusicTT, the MTI launched the pilot phase of the Live Music District across the city of Port of Spain which acted as a platform to showcase the various talents of our music. Additionally, the MTI through FilmTT completed a strategic plan which will serve as a guide and enable Government to make informed decisions for the development of this area.

Other accomplishments of the MTI during Fiscal 2018 are outlined in this Annual Administrative Report 2018.

The MTI Annual Administrative Report for Fiscal 2018 covers the following areas:

1. MTI Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives;
2. Organisational Structure;
3. Policies and Development Initiatives and the Way Forward;
4. Financial Operations;
5. Human Resource Development Plan;
6. Procurement Public and Community Relations; and
7. Conclusion.

# MTI Vision, Mission and Strategic Objective

## 2.1 Vision of MTI

“A dynamic, client oriented organisation delivering integrated, quality services for business growth, trade and investment expansion and consumer empowerment”

## 2.2 Mission of MTI

“To work as an innovative team, championing business growth, trade and investment for enhanced global competitiveness and promoting consumer interests for improved wellbeing”

## 2.3 Strategic Objectives

The MTI’s strategic objectives are guided by the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016-2030. The development theme under the NDS relevant to the MTI, is:

“Theme IV: Building Globally Competitive Businesses”

This theme seeks to create a stable and predictable macroeconomic environment to allow for long-term social and economic prosperity; entrepreneurship; attracting investment, trade; and, producing high value products and services that can compete in export markets.

In order to contribute to Theme IV of the NDS 2016 – 2030, the MTI developed a Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020 to support the growth and expansion of cottage industries; medium to large businesses; investors; exporters; and to create an enabling environment.

The MTI’s Strategic Plan is supported by its annual work plan which prioritise projects and efficiently and effectively allocate resources. For Fiscal 2018, the MTI work plan included 121 targets and the table below outlines the MTI’s work plan for the period. The successful targets are further outlined within the report.

## MTI Strategic Framework Fiscal 2018

### MTI Goal 1- Diversified and Competitive Business

#### Strategy

- 1.1 Legislative, regulatory and administrative frameworks revised or developed to create an enabling business environment
- 1.2 Government services utilised by the business community improved to reduce inefficiencies
- 1.3 Technical assistance and infrastructure support provided

### MTI Goal 2- Increased Investment

#### Strategy

- 2.1 Legislative, regulatory and administrative frameworks revised or developed to attract investment
- 2.2 Technical assistance and infrastructure provided to investors

### MTI Goal 3- Expanded and Diversified Regional and International Trade

#### Strategy

- 3.1 Legislative, regulatory and administrative frameworks developed and implemented to grow exports
- 3.2 Trade agreements negotiated
- 3.3 Trade support and facilitation programme executed

### MTI Goal 4- Enhanced Protection and Empowerment of Consumers

#### Strategy

- 4.1 Legislation, regulation and administrative frameworks developed to empower consumers and encourage ethical business practices
- 4.2 Research and education programme executed to enhance consumer protection and empowerment

### MTI Goal 5- Transformed Ministry Performance and Service Delivery

#### Strategy

- 5.1 Performance management systems revised and implemented
- 5.2 Internal and external communications programmes developed and implemented
- 5.3 Research systems to gather and analyse data on the non-energy sector developed and implemented

# 3.0 Organisational Structure

## 3.1 Organisational Profile

The MTI is the official public sector agency responsible for leading and overseeing implementation of Government policy for business development, trade, investment and consumer empowerment. Its current portfolio responsibilities listed in the Trinidad and Tobago Gazette of September 23, 2015, are as follows:

### Incubating Local Industries

#### Commerce

- Anti-Dumping
- Competition Policy

#### Consumer Affairs

- Consumer Empowerment
- Consumer Protection
- Consumer Research

#### e-Commerce

#### Export Processing Zones

#### Industry

#### Industrial Parks

#### Metrology

#### Piarco Aero Park

#### Product Information

#### Product Quality Development

#### Technology Park

#### Trade

- Trade Agreements
- Trade Policy

## 3.2 Corporate Structure

The MTI structure is designed to allow for strategy delivery, efficient processes and the achievement of planned outcomes. The structure comprises:

1. Minister's Office
2. Office of the Permanent Secretary
3. Directorates
4. Support Units
5. State Agencies

### Minister's Office

The Minister of Trade and Industry has overall responsibility for defining the policy for trade, business development, investment and consumer empowerment.

### Office of the Permanent Secretary (OPS)

The OPS is responsible for executive management of the MTI and its achievement of defined goals. The office generally consists of the Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary, supporting staff and other senior managerial personnel. The Permanent Secretary is the most senior office with overall responsibility for the activities of the MTI. A second Acting Permanent Secretary has been temporarily assigned. The Deputy Permanent Secretary provides technical support to the OPS.

## Core Directorates/Divisions:

The directorates are core portfolio areas of the MTI with main responsibility for formulating policy, developing strategies and ensuring execution of the technical mandate of MTI. The MTI has five directorates. They are as follows:

1. **Business Development Directorate (BDD)** - plans and executes the business development portfolio of the MTI in order to contribute to the country's macroeconomic business development performance measures.
2. **Consumer Affairs Division (CAD)** – plans and executes the consumer guidance, protection and empowerment initiatives of the MTI in order to contribute to a fair business environment.
3. **Investment Directorate (ID)** – formulates and implements the investment portfolio of the MTI in order to contribute to the country's macroeconomic investment performance measures.
4. **Policy and Strategy Directorate (PSD)** - provides strategic planning, policy development and co-ordination services to the MTI. Through project management services, the PSD also ensures the efficient mobilisation of resources and execution of strategic projects such as the Single Electronic Window (SEW) for Trade and Business Facilitation.
5. **Trade Directorate (TD)** - formulates and effects trade policy, legislative briefs and strategies for the planning and execution of the MTI's trade portfolio in order to contribute to the country's macroeconomic trade performance measures.

## Support Units

The support units provide essential services to the core directorates and the overall MTI through the development and management of the corporate-wide activities. The Support Units are as follows:

1. **Accounting Unit (AU)** - oversees and co-ordinates all financial operations of the MTI. The Unit ensures that accurate financial information is reported in a timely manner.
2. **Corporate Communications and Events Management Unit (CC&EMU)** - provides information to key internal and external stakeholders on a timely basis. The unit also enhances the MTI's corporate image, and manages the MTI's relationship with key stakeholders.
3. **Corporate Services Unit (CSU)** – provides office management, procurement and facilities management services.
4. **Legal Unit (LU)** – provides legal advice and support to the MTI.
5. **Fair Trading Unit (FTU)** – ensures that the business environment is fair and free from uncompetitive business practices which hinder growth and development.
6. **Human Resource Unit (HRU)** – manages the selection and development of the human capital of the MTI.
7. **Information Management and Support Unit (IM&SU)** - provides technical and network support services to the MTI. The department is also responsible for transforming the MTI through Information and Communication Technology.
8. **Internal Audit Unit (IAU)** - ensures conformity of the MTI with financial rules and regulations, instructions, policies and contract plans.
9. **Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (M&EU)** – ensures evidence-based decision making across the MTI and its agencies.



**10. Trade Licence Unit (TLU)** - administers the import and export of goods in accordance with applicable laws and Government policy.

## State Agencies

The implementation of the MTT's policies is primarily facilitated through the work of its state agencies. The roles, responsibilities and services provided by these state agencies are outlined below:

### 1. Statutory Boards and Other Bodies:

- i. Betting Levy Board (BLB)* develops and improves every aspect of horse and dog racing, including the breeding of racehorses and dogs and the provision of benefits for jockeys and stable lads, and monitoring compliance with any rules relating to the operation of pool betting offices and pool betting outlets, including their opening and closing hours. The Betting Levy Board Act No. 35 of 1989 came into force on November 15, 1989, upon proclamation by the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. It has since been amended by Act No. 31 of 1991, and the Finance Act No. 5 of 1995.
- ii. Fair Trading Commission (FTC)* is an independent statutory body responsible for implementing the Fair Trading Act. The main objectives are to promote and maintain effective competition throughout the economy, and to ensure that competition is not distorted, restricted or prevented, either by private business conduct or by public policy.
- iii. Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS)* is a corporate body established on July 8th, 1974 and governed by the authority of the Standards Act No. 18 of 1997. It has a statutory responsibility to promote and encourage the development and maintenance of standards for the improvement of goods produced or used in Trinidad and Tobago (except food, drugs and cosmetics).
- iv. The Trinidad and Tobago Racing Authority (TTRA)* regulates and controls racing and the operation of race courses. As such, the Racing Authority plays a critical role in the administration of horse racing, in particular, in ensuring that the integrity of the sport is upheld.

### 2. Wholly Owned Enterprises:

- i. Evolving TecKnologies and Enterprise Development Company Limited (eTeck)* manages and optimises the use of its existing industrial parks on a commercial basis and develops and improves the infrastructure and operations of new modern economic zones through, inter-alia, public private partnerships that can expand and diversify Trinidad and Tobago's economic base. The company also manages the assets of the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre and Magdalena Grand Beach Resort.
- ii. invesTT Limited (invesTT)* acts as a "one-stop-shop" for investors ensuring that they are provided with all the knowledge, tools, linkages and facilitation needed to efficiently navigate the way to new business opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago.
- iii. The Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Limited (CreativeTT)* stimulates and facilitates the business development and export activities of the creative industries in Trinidad and Tobago in order to generate national wealth. The company is responsible for the strategic development of the three niche sub-sectors under its purview, namely, music, film and fashion.
- iv. Trinidad and Tobago Free Zones Company Limited (TTFZ)* is governed by the Trinidad and Tobago Free Zones Act Chapter 81:07 and is responsible for the operation of Free Zones in Trinidad and Tobago.

### 3. Majority Owned Enterprises:

- i. *exporTT Limited* is designated the sole national export facilitation organisation of Trinidad and Tobago. Its mandate is to generate export growth and diversification in the goods and services sectors.

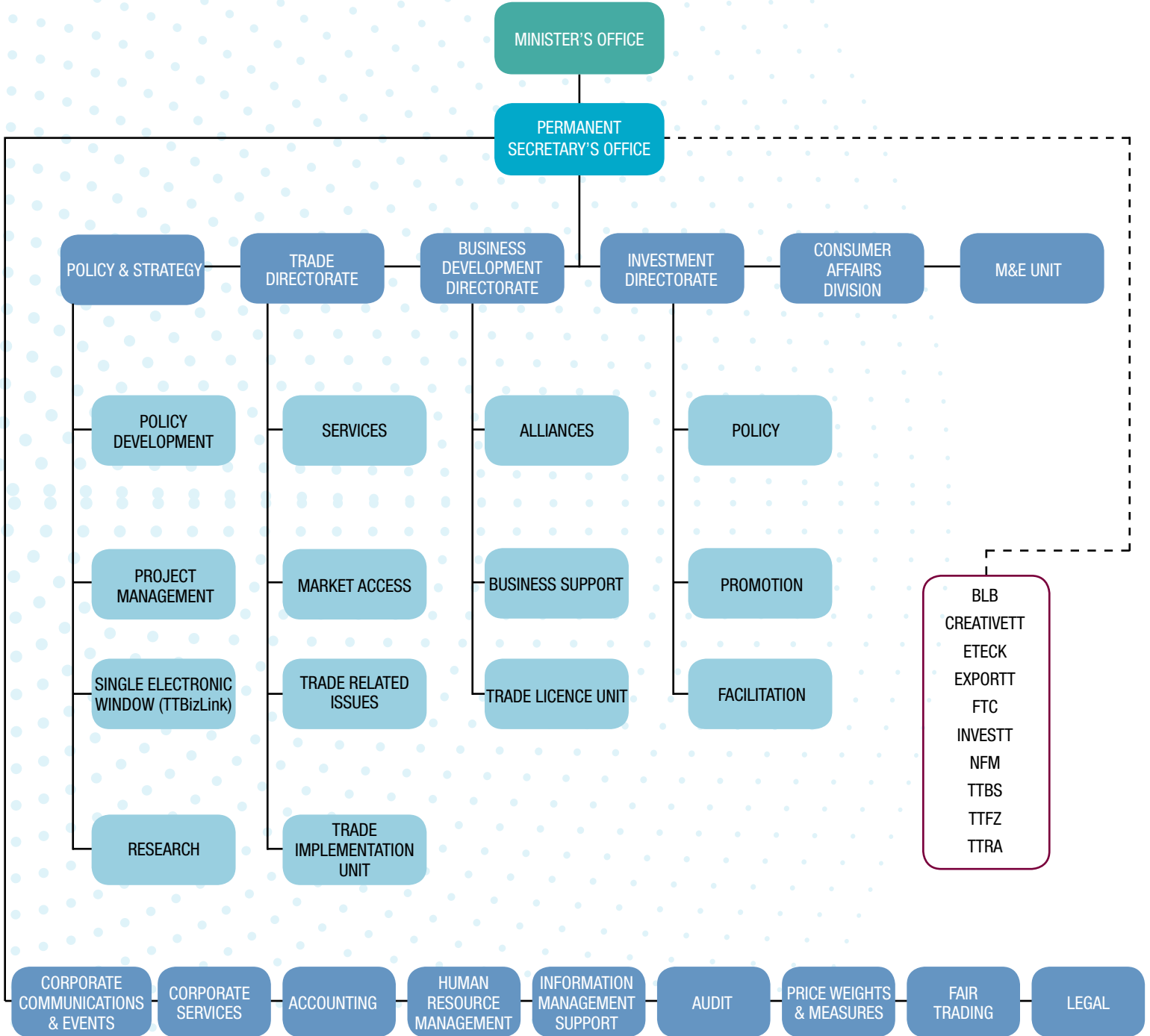
### 4. Indirectly Owned Enterprises:

- i. *National Flour Mills Limited (NFM)* is a local manufacturer in Trinidad and Tobago's flour and feed milling industries. The company commenced trading activities in 1966 and has grown to provide services such as flour milling, rice milling, animal feed production, dry mix blending and packaging related thereto. NFM is a publicly traded company and is partly owned by the GoRTT.

### 5. Other Related Agencies

- i. *The Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries (TTCSI)* is a national umbrella body that brings together all services sector organisations and associations. It functions as a focal point to lobby, channel and address trade in services issues and services development issues, which are critical for the sector to thrive in the competitive global environment.

The following diagram outlines the current organisational structure of the MTI:



# 4.0

## Policy and Development Initiatives

The initiatives pursued by the MTI in Fiscal 2018 were aligned to the NDS 2016 to 2030 thematic area, “Theme IV - Building Globally Competitive Businesses”.

Theme IV of the NDS 2016 to 2020 targets macroeconomic stability; entrepreneurship; investment and trade; and, the creation of high value products and services that can compete in export markets.

To contribute to the achievement of Theme IV, the MTI pursued the following strategic goals:

*Goal 1: Diversified and Competitive Businesses*

*Goal 2: Increased Investment*

*Goal 3: Expanded and Diversified Regional and International Trade*

*Goal 4: Enhanced Protection and Empowerment of Consumers*

Additionally, the MTI sought to strengthen its institutional operations through the execution of initiatives under “Goal 5: Transformed Ministry Performance and Service Delivery”.

The achievements in Fiscal 2018 under these goals are outlined below.

### 4.1 Diversified and Competitive Businesses

The viability of the non-energy sector is dependent on the ability of businesses to competitively produce and sell a diverse set of goods and services. To support the establishment, operation and/or expansion of businesses in targeted sectors, in Fiscal 2018, the MTI targeted issues that negatively impact the business environment and firms’ ability to sustainably produce goods and services at competitive prices and quality. The MTI also provided direct support to established business to aid their growth. Initiatives executed included:

#### Manufacturing

##### *i. Grant Fund Facility*

In November 2017, the Ministry of Trade and Industry launched a TT\$25 Mn Grant Fund Facility (GFF). This facility provides financing up to a maximum of TT \$250,000 per applicant and is geared towards supporting Small and Medium-Sized (SMEs) export-oriented entrepreneurs and import substitution-gearred businesses in manufacturing and agro-processing for the acquisition of machinery and equipment. In Fiscal 2018, seven (7) applications were received where two (2) applications were approved, three (3) are pending approval and two (2) were rejected. The two (2) companies that benefitted from this fund valued TT\$140,482 and TT\$210,895 respectively.



### *ii. Revised Research and Development Facility*

In Fiscal 2018, the Ministry of Trade and Industry analysed the performance of the existing RDF through its line agency exporTT and implemented a revised Research and Development Facility (RDF). This new facility supports activities promoting experimental development, industrial research, and enhanced process and system improvements. In this fiscal, five (5) applications were received with three (3) applications approved and two (2) applications rejected. The three (3) approved applications totalled TT\$787,500.

### *iii. National Quality Policy*

On April 24, 2018, the Cabinet approved National Quality Policy was launched. The National Quality Policy (NQP) is the basic government instrument that sets out the objectives and strategies of the country regarding the development and use of the Quality Infrastructure in relation to its economic and societal needs and the building of a quality culture (adapted from UNIDO 2016).

The NQP has also been developed with key interventions to foster quality intelligence and promote a culture of quality. Both are necessary for sustainable trade developments, through the design and establishment of National Quality Infrastructure (NQI) comprising the key elements of metrology, standardisation, accreditation, inspection, testing and certification appropriate for the needs of Trinidad and Tobago.

Furthermore, a communication plan was developed and approved by Cabinet which outlines and includes awareness building of the roles and functions of key parties in the governance of the NQI, and awareness aimed at developing and enabling quality-intelligent and proactive users and consumers.

## **Maritime Sector**

The Official Policy Framework of the Government highlights maritime as a sector that has enormous potential to contribute to the sustainable growth and diversification of the economy through, inter alia, revenue generation, employment creation and foreign exchange earnings.

The Standing Committee for the Development of the Maritime Sector, established in 2016 and facilitated by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, focused on the implementation of projects to address matters integral to the commercial maritime and yachting industries. In Fiscal 2018, work continues on the framework for the development of the maritime sector and the sectors identified for further development which include *ship repair and dry docking, transshipment and cold stacking*.

### *i. Ship Repair and Dry Docking*

- a. The Ministry facilitated meetings between the major local stakeholders in the ship repair and dry docking industry and the Inter-American Investment Corporation (IIC) of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to discuss financing options for the expansion of their operations. One company is at an advanced stage of discussion with a financial institution for financing to facilitate their expansion project.
- b. In September 2018, the Government through the National Infrastructure Development Company (NIDCO) entered into a Cooperation Agreement with China Harbour Engineering Company Limited (CHEC) for the development of dry-docking facilities at La Brea. The project is estimated to take four (4) years to complete, generate 5,000 jobs, increase the country's GDP by 7% and generate much needed foreign exchange. Trinidad and Tobago will retain 70% equity in the project that will also create new opportunities for hotels and restaurants in the area.

## *ii. Transshipment and Cold Stacking*

Under the Standing Committee's direction, the guidelines for the expansion of transshipment and cold stacking of vessels were developed and approved by Cabinet and an inter-agency committee was established to review applications and monitor the sector's activities. In Fiscal 2018, the committee focused on the development of the terms and conditions on a contract structure, in order for the GoRTT to have proper system in place with foreign companies who wish to part take in transshipment or cold stacking activities in our waters.

## **Maritime Sub-Sector (Yachting)**

In August 2017, the Yachting Policy was approved by Cabinet and laid out various initiatives that were to be implemented in Fiscal 2018. As such, during Fiscal 2018, the implementation of the Yachting Policy positively impacted the yachting sector in Trinidad and Tobago with yacht arrivals increased by 23% from 384 yachts to 473 yachts. Other activities include:

- i. The Ministry of Trade and Industry sponsored the Tobago Sailing Regatta in May 2018. The regatta attracted nineteen (19) vessels from regional and international destinations for three days of competition.
- ii. In July 2018, the Urban Development Corporation of T&T Limited (UdeCoTT) issued a request for Expression of Interest (EOI) to identify suitably qualified entities to submit proposals to develop Invaders Bay in accordance with its conceptual development plan that includes a marina. The EOI closed in September 2018 and is currently in the evaluation stage.
- iii. The development and implementation of a safety programme to ensure the safety of the cruisers at sea and while visiting our country.
- iv. The development of a sector specific marketing and promotional plan that is now guiding stakeholder efforts to increase the number of yacht arrivals.
- v. The development of a guidebook of environmental practices for marinas and boatyards in Trinidad and Tobago.
- vi. The completion of customer service training for the employees in the yachting sub-sector.

## **Creative Sector Development**

During the Fiscal 2018, the MTI embarked on a number of interventions that sought to grow and promote the Creative Industries' three sub-sectors: film, music and fashion. The achievements within the sector for Fiscal 2018 are as follows:-

### *Fashion*

#### *a. Fashion Value Chain Investment Programme*

##### **Global Value Chain (GVC)**

Three (3) designers were chosen to be a part of the GVC to receive mentorship from export professionals, who have a proven track record for retail distribution. Assistance was provided to these designers to attend fashion trade shows for the purpose of distribution opportunities, access to raw materials and networking opportunities through direct business meetings.

### **Non Global Value Chain (GVC)**

In March 2018, ten (10) designers completed training in the Non-GVC tier and are now better positioned to prepare and execute business plans. These designers were J. Angelique, Charu Lochan Dass, Ecliff Elie, Millhouse and Ted Arthur Leather Collection. This programme improved the export readiness of the selected firms which enabled them to compete in the global market. Four (4) of these designers exhibited growth in their businesses and added new streams of incomes by entering new markets such as St. Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda and Barbados.

#### ***b. Incubator***

FashionTT collaborated with the National Entrepreneurship Development Company Limited (NEDCO) for the incubator tier and provided support to forty (40) emerging designers.

#### ***c. Bespoke Tailoring Programme***

In March 2018, FashionTT introduced a Certificate Programme in Bespoke Tailoring, Pattern Drafting, Cutting and Fitting, in collaboration with the Savile Row Academy (SRA) and the MIC Institute of Technology. A total of twenty eight (28) students were enrolled and this programme will be integral to building export capacity, successfully positioning tailor made products made in Trinidad and Tobago in international markets, creating sustainable employment and generating increased foreign exchange.

### ***Music***

#### ***a. Artiste Portfolio Development Programme***

In December 2017, MusicTT launched the Artiste Portfolio Development Programme in the form of a music showcase. Approximately 160 artistes who were selected for this programme gained financial opportunities from the initiative through various bookings.

#### ***b. Strategic Plan for the Music Industry***

The MTI through MusicTT completed a strategic plan for the music industry. This plan will enable the Government to make informed decisions to grow the sector.

#### ***c. Launch of a Live Music District (LMD)***

In Fiscal 2018, MusicTT launched the pilot phase of the Live Music District across the city of Port of Spain which 340 performances took place in over 30 venues. This resulted in forty-one percent (41%) of artistes registered being hired on multiple occasions during LMD by the 30 registered venues.

### ***Film***

#### ***a. Strategic Plan for the Film Industry***

In Fiscal 2018, the MTI through FilmTT completed a strategic plan for the film industry. This plan will serve as a guide and enable Government to make informed decisions geared toward the development of this area. Additionally, seven (7) film companies received rebates under the Film Expenditure Rebate Programme with a total value of TT\$5,652,533.24.

## Business Environment Reforms

The viability of the non-energy sector is dependent on the ability of businesses to competitively produce and sell a diverse set goods and services. To improve the domestic business climate the MTI executed a number of administrative and legislative reforms that addresses several areas pertinent to business operations which will be implemented in the short-and medium-long- term. Key reforms include:

### *Ease of Doing Business*

According to the 2018 Doing Business Report, Trinidad and Tobago maintains a favourable ranking in the following indicators:

Getting Electricity – 33rd

Getting Credit – 55th

Protecting Investors – 62nd

Starting a Business – 71st

Resolving Insolvency – 72nd

To ensure transformation to the way business is done in Trinidad and Tobago, the Government approved a comprehensive suite of reforms which are outlined in a single implementation plan governed by the MTI. This plan is being implemented by several ministries and Government agencies with the aim of completion by December 2019. The key achievements in the various reform initiatives during Fiscal 2018 are as follows:

#### *a. Implementation of a Secured Transactions and Collateral Registry System*

In May 2018, Cabinet approved the Policy to Enhance the Secured Transactions Regime in Trinidad and Tobago and letters were sent to various persons to form the Steering Committee to guide the policy. Furthermore, a proposal was submitted by the MTI for funding of the development of the collateral registry system. The proposal was accepted by Complete Caribbean for funding of US\$200,000 for the project.

#### *b. Operationalisation of the two mobile container scanners*

The Customs and Excise Division operationalised the two (2) mobile container scanners at the Port of Port of Spain in October 2018 and November 2018 by the Ministry of Works and Transport and the Port Authority.

#### *c. Fully operationalise the Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency*

An official supervisor of insolvency and four (4) persons were recruited to assist in full operationalisation of the Office of the Supervisor of Insolvency under the Insolvency Act.

### *Single Electronic Window for Trade and Business Facilitation*

The Strengthening of the Single Electronic Window for Trade and Business Facilitation is financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) through a loan contract signed on April 8, 2016.

The overarching objective of the project is to improve the trade performance and the business facilitation environment in Trinidad and Tobago through the strengthening of the Single Electronic Window (SEW).

During Fiscal 2018, the following achievements were attained.

#### *a. Advisory Services to Assist in the Implementation of Electronic Funds Framework*

The consultancy for the operationalisation of the exchequer and audit regulations commenced in November 2017. This advisory service will facilitate the development of strategies and action plans to ensure the successful implementation and administration of Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) for the



GoRTT. Additionally, this service will provide the Treasury Division with the necessary technical expertise to implement the EFT Policy and associated EFT Framework.

***b. Consultancy to Develop and Implement an Integrated Risk Management System***

A consultant was procured and the project was officially launched in June 2018. This specific consultancy will enable officers and analysts in the relevant agencies to make risk based decisions in the day to day border operation using an advanced automated risk management system which will result in a reduction in time associated with border compliance for importers/ businesses.

***c. Develop and Implement an Automated Construction Permit System***

A consultant was procured and the project was officially launched in June 2018. This system will improve Trinidad and Tobago's doing business ranking in the area of "Dealing with Construction Permits", more specifically, the existing construction permit processes will be re-engineered to increase efficiency and as such move from a paper based system to an automated online system which will drastically reduce process time and effort.

***d. Trade Licence Unit Digitisation***

This project will be completed in October, 2018 and will enable the TLU's digitised documents in an indexed form so that it can be used on the SEW system. This in turn will allow for paperless transactions, as well as, reduce the time taken to process licences.

***e. Interoperability of TTBizLink***

In Fiscal 2018, the Plant Quarantine Services, Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries and the Pesticides and Toxic Chemicals Division, Ministry of Health were fully transitioned for Plant Import Permits and the use of its e-Mobile Inspection to the e-Permits and Licence Module respectively.

## **4.2 Increased Investment**

Investments are a critical component of the NDS 2016-2030 goals, as a result, in Fiscal 2018, the MTI focused on delivering policies and projects that seek to improve the investment climate and grow investments. The MTI investment achievements for Fiscal 2018 include the following initiatives.

### **Special Economic Zones**

The MTI received Cabinet approval for the implementation of the Special Economic Zones Policy (SEZ). The Cabinet approved policy provides a structured approach to facilitating domestic and foreign investments into strategic areas and location.

In Fiscal 2018, the MTI targeted a myriad of areas for the development of new economic spaces under our dedicated Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy. These areas are:

#### ***Moruga Agro-Processing & Light Industrial Park***

The MTI through its implementing arm, eTeck, commenced the construction of the Moruga Agro-Processing and Light Industrial Park in May 2018 which will be completed in May 2019. The park will occupy approximately eighteen (18) acres of land and comprise five (5) factory shells with potential for processing rice, cassava and other root crops, fish, pineapple and other fruits, cocoa, hot peppers and lumber products. This initiative is a component of a wider national policy which prioritises the creation

of a strong, modern, prosperous and competitive agriculture sector and the improvement of the nation's food security. This park will increase locally grown food which creates important economic opportunities, provides health benefits and helps to reduce environmental impact for the nation.

### *Phoenix Park Industrial Estate (PPIE)*

On June 18, 2018, eTecK executed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Beijing Construction Engineering Group (BCEG) for the development of the PPIE. On July 16, 2018, the Minister of Finance submitted a formal loan proposal to the Chinese Government Concessional for financing of the PPIE Project.

The proposed development will cover an area of approximately 133 acres with 70 plots ranging in sizes between 0.8 and 1.3 acres. Firms targeted will be mainly in the areas of high-value and light manufacturing in emerging industries such as; electronic technology, information technology, energy-saving ecological building materials and biotechnology.

An anchor tenant will be establishing a Regional Distribution Facility on the estate and under the current engagement, BCEG will be required to guarantee the operations of at least ten (10) Chinese firms in the following approved business areas.

To date, there has been interest in the following areas:

- Glass powder manufacturing facility;
- Air conditioner manufacturing facility;
- Paper converting operations;
- Ceramic manufacturing facility;
- Wood processing facility;
- Communication equipment facility;
- Building materials facility;
- Integrated housing manufacturing facility; and
- Food processing facility.

### **Investment Approval and Facilitation Framework**

In April 2017, Cabinet approved a new Investment Approval and Facilitation Framework to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness in accelerating targeted investments. In Fiscal 2018, under this Framework, the MTI facilitated four (4) non-energy investment projects in the manufacturing sector estimated at US\$32.5 million. Table I refers.

**Table I: List of Projects Facilitated under the Framework for Approval and Facilitation of Investments in the Non-Energy Sector (January - August 2018)**

Company Name	Business Activity	Estimated Investment US\$	Estimated Employment
Creamery Novelties Limited (HADCO)	Manufacture of Ice Cream	19,000,000	20
IMANEX Limited (HADCO)	Manufacture of Ice Cream Cones	1,000,000	30
Harkness Energy Limited	Service Station at Mc Bean, Couva	3,500,000	20
Advance Foam Limited	Manufacture of fibre pads, quilt fibre and compressed pad	9,000,000	40
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>32,500,000</b>	<b>110</b>

Additionally, the Inter-Ministerial Committee is currently facilitating twenty-one investment projects worth over US\$218 million across various sectors, including manufacturing, construction and food and beverage which will be completed in Fiscal 2019. Table II refers.

**Table II: List of Projects being facilitated under the Framework for Approval and Facilitation of Investments in the Non-Energy Sector**

Company Name	Business Activity	Estimated Investment US\$	Estimated Employment
Nutrimix Limited	Hatchery and Animal Pet Food Operations at Point Lisas	15,500,000	100
Metal X Engineering Limited	Metal Fabrication and Trade School for Welders at Factory Road	4,000,000	140
Caribbean Distribution Partners Limited	Non-Alcoholic beverage manufacturing and distribution facility	29,100,000	NA
Advanced Foam Ltd.	Manufacture of High Quality Pillows	1,000,000	10
ANSA McAl	Construction of a warehouse and establishment of a new manufacturing operation in the Central Area	25,000,000	NA
Edan K Properties	1. Development in Gasparillo – 3 buildings of 4 acres;	20,000,000	NA
	2. Office Building in Gulf View;	15,000,000	
	3. Development in Harmony Hall- service station and highway access on 15 acres	NA	
Annon Naipaul	1. Building in South Park	8,000,000	NA
	2. Building in Sande Grande	7,000,000	
Tucker Energy Services Limited	Construction of Tucker Mega Energy Service Company and Headquarters	18,000,000	NA

Company Name	Business Activity	Estimated Investment US\$	Estimated Employment
Holiday Foods Limited (Bermudez)	Construction of Manufacturing Facility	36,800,000	NA
PriceSmart Limited	Construction of its Regional Distribution Centre at Phoenix Park	8,000,000	NA
RSR Holdings Limited	Jetty expansion and establishment of a Floating Dock	12,000,000	150
Trinidad Yacht Club	1. Jetty expansion 2. Construction of Boat rack and new parking structure	15,000,000 4,000,000	40
Aranguuez Housing Development	Housing Project in Aranguuez	NA	NA
Aerial Services Limited	Proposal to build the flight training and maintenance industry in Trinidad and Tobago.	NA	NA
Montserrat Cocoa Farmers' Co-operative Society Limited	Development of the Cocoa industry	NA	NA
Radiotherapy Services	Proposal for a public- private partnership in the provision of effective high quality radiotherapy at the St. James facility	NA	NA
Trinidad Silicones	Manufacture of silicone and silicone products.	NA	NA
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>218,400,000</b>	<b>440</b>

### Partnered with the Private Sector to host the 19th Annual Trade and Investment Convention (TIC 2018) – ‘New Horizons New Opportunities’

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) partnered with the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) to host TIC 2018 which attracted over 15,200 attendees/participants. There were 253 booths, 3 pavilions and the exhibitor population consisted of 177 (83%) local companies and 35 (17%) regional and international enterprises. During the convention, a total of 328 meetings were scheduled between buyers and exhibitors. This platform provides the continuity of substantial business deals to take place to enhance our trading environment.



### 4.3 Expanded and Diversified Regional and International Trade

Given the role exports play in driving macroeconomic development, the MTI strengthened its efforts to support businesses which exports Trinidad and Tobago's goods and services. In this regard, the MTI pursued trade agreements, developed export capacity and provided loan financing to exporters. Initiatives executed in Fiscal 2018 are outlined below.

#### Trade Agreements

##### *Trinidad and Tobago Panama Partial Scope Trade Agreement*

In October 2017, a Five Year Implementation Plan for the Trinidad and Tobago-Panama PSTA was approved by Cabinet. Over the period October 2017 to January 2018, the Ministry of Trade and Industry met with key stakeholders under the PSTA to inform them of their responsibilities and obligations, as well as to identify any potential issues or concerns regarding trade with Panama.

##### *Negotiate and Implement Trade Agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Chile*

Trinidad and Tobago and Chile completed exploratory discussions towards a Partial Scope Trade Agreement and exchanged products of interest and SPS requirements in June 2018. Cabinet agreed in August 2018 that T&T proceed to advance negotiations towards a PSTA with Chile, should the country be in a position to do so.

##### *Partial Scope Trade Agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Guatemala*

In July 2018, Cabinet confirmed the acceptance of the Partial Scope Trade Agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and Guatemala, subject to the removal of ten (10) agricultural products.

##### *Pursue and Maintain Trade Agreements with Canada, USA and UK*

- Trinidad and Tobago organised regional support for the continuation of the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) and liaised with the USA on the renewal of the CBI. The USA indicated that efforts to renew the World Trade Organization waiver will be pursued in March 2019.
- Trinidad and Tobago developed and presented its positions on a trade agreement with the United Kingdom (UK), as part of CARIFORUM. Trinidad and Tobago participated in meetings of senior officials on four (4) occasions for the development of a CARIFORUM-UK trade agreement, when the UK exits the European Union.

#### Trade Missions

##### *Trade Mission Strategy*

The Ministry of Trade and Industry completed a draft Trade Mission Strategy (TMS) 2018 – 2020 for Trinidad and Tobago to develop a more consistent coordinated approach towards trade missions as well as help exporters and service providers to take greater advantage of the market opportunities. The TMS is currently before Cabinet for final approval.

### *Trade Mission to Costa Rica*

In March 2018, the MTI led a trade mission comprising six (6) companies to Costa Rica. The mission facilitated approximately eighty three (83) business-to-business meetings and discussions with key Ministries and agencies aimed at addressing trade barriers and increasing trade between both countries.

### *Trade Mission to Panama*

In March 2018, the MTI led a trade mission comprising seven (7) companies to Panama. The mission facilitated approximately eighty three (83) business-to-business meetings and discussions with key ministries and agencies aimed at addressing trade barriers and increasing trade between both countries.

### *Trade Mission to Jamaica*

In April 2018, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, alongside the TTMA led a trade mission comprising fourteen (14) companies to Jamaica. The mission facilitated approximately eighty (80) business-to-business meetings and discussions with key Jamaican ministries and agencies aimed at addressing trade barriers and increasing trade between both countries.

### *Trade Mission to Colombia*

In September 2018, the MTI led a trade mission comprising nine (9) companies to Colombia. The mission facilitated approximately eighty (80) business-to-business meetings and discussions with key ministries and agencies aimed at addressing trade barriers and increasing trade between both countries.

### *Trade Mission to Guyana*

In September 2018, the MTI led a trade mission comprising fourteen (14) companies. Arising out of this mission, approximately eight (8) companies commenced business with Guyana.

## **Trade Shows**

### *Trade Show Cuba-FIHAV 2017*

A total of twenty (20) companies attended this trade show of which six (6) local companies exhibited. exporTT is continuing to work with companies who are attempting to enter the market.

## **Trade agreements as a member state of CARICOM**

### *CARICOM – Cuba*

The Second Protocol to the Trade and Economic Cooperation Agreement was signed in Georgetown Guyana on November 9, 2017. The Second Protocol will be given effect in accordance with the provisions of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Cuba Trade and Economic Co-operation Act, Chap. 81:12 of the Laws of Trinidad and Tobago. The Ministry of Trade and Industry is currently in discussions with the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel to determine the most appropriate means by which this may be achieved.

### *CARICOM – Dominican Republic*

In March 2018, Trinidad and Tobago chaired and participated in a Meeting of the CARICOM Technical Working Group in Preparation for the Extraordinary Meeting of the CARICOM-Dominican Republic Joint Council convened via video-conference. These meetings focused on the development of a CARICOM offer of preferential access for engagement with the Dominican Republic at the Extraordinary Meeting of the Joint Council.

At the Forty-Sixth Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) held in May 2018, COTED reviewed the developments pertaining to an Extraordinary Meeting of the Joint Council under the CARICOM-Dominican Free Trade Agreement. With respect to the CARICOM's request to the Dominican Republic for additional market access, the COTED endorsed the request. In respect of the Dominican Republic's request for additional access to CARICOM, the COTED urged Member States to complete their consultations (especially on glass bottles) in advance of the Extraordinary Meeting.

## exportTT

### *Business Development Programme (Export Capacity Building Programme)*

The Business Development Programme (Export Capacity Building Programme) aims to build the export capacity and competitiveness for local exporters. The achievements under this project for Fiscal 2018 were as follows:

- Twenty-five (25) export related training programmes were conducted with 562 of which 226 unique companies attended.
- Twenty-two (22) export support plans completed.
- Four (4) information dissemination seminars conducted:
  - ▶ Less than Container Load (LCL) Shipping Export Service Seminar held on May 25, 2018;
  - ▶ Animation Sub Sector Seminar held in June 2018.
  - ▶ Labelling Trends and Requirements Update Seminar held in June 2018.
  - ▶ Private Labelling and Contract Manufacturing August 2018

### *Food and Safety Modernisation Act Programme*

The Food Safety Modernisation Act (FSMA) Programme enabled local companies to conform to the regulations and laws required under the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) which allowed them to strengthen their food safety system, and therefore the quality of their exports. Under this project for Fiscal 2018, eight (8) companies attained GMP/ HACCP Standard/ Compliance: GMP - Cocoa Republic Trini Weenie; Habanero Peppers Sauce Company; Tobago Cocoa Estates Limited; Creamery Novelties; Imanex Limited ; Micromilling Ltd. and Caribbean Wells Limited.

### *Co-Financing Programme*

In Fiscal 2018, twenty five (25) companies have benefitted from this programme at a cost of approximately TT\$331,784.58.

## 4.4 Enhanced Protection and Empowerment of Consumers

### National Consumer Policy

In March 2018, the new National Consumer Policy (2018-2023) was launched by the Ministry of Trade and Industry. The Policy will improve consumer wellbeing through enhanced consumer empowerment and protection. The Policy calls for the existing Consumer Protection and Safety Act, Chapter 82:34 be repealed and replaced with new harmonised legislation that falls in line with the CARICOM Model Consumer Protection Bill (2016).

### Consumer Education and Outreach

In Fiscal 2018, the Consumer Affairs Division held two hundred and seven (207) lectures and thirteen (13) outreach programmes on consumer rights and responsibilities. The Division further strengthened its consumer awareness through talk shows and other promotional campaigns.

### Consumer Complaint Receipt and Redress

In June, 2018, to improve the management of consumer complaints and quicken the resolution of complaints, the computerised Consumer Complaints Management System was upgraded and operationalized. Furthermore, 507 out of 711 complaints were resolved which totalled to a value of TT\$1,608,227.50 in complaint resolutions during Fiscal 2018.

### Metrology

In accordance with the 2004 Metrology Act, TTBS commenced the verification of supermarket scales in groceries across Trinidad and Tobago. The regulation of scales will ensure consumers receive value for money and champion consumer rights. To date, in Trinidad 1,604 supermarket scales verified and 169 devices failed the verification test and in Tobago 162 supermarket scales were verified and one (1) device failed the verification test and this initiative will continue in Fiscal 2019.

## 4.5 Transformed Ministry Performance and Service Delivery

### MTI Change Management Strategy and Framework

In Fiscal 2018, the implementation of the MTI Change Management Strategy and Framework commenced with various capacity building initiatives aimed at transforming the organisation's performance and service delivery. These training initiatives consisted of:

- i. Microsoft Suite;
- ii. Business Writing;
- iii. Business Protocol and Etiquette; and
- iv. Customer Service

### MTI Annual Research Seminar

The MTI held its first Annual Research Seminar which showcased a myriad presentations to highlight and provide strategies to strengthen the non-energy sector. This seminar was aimed at enhancing critical and analytical thinking and disseminate knowledge within the MTI.



## MTI Monitoring & Evaluation Protocols

During Fiscal 2018, the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Unit continued implementation of its M&E Training Plan and Protocol within the MTI and its State Agencies to aid in correcting weakness within the planning, implementation and reporting on MTI initiatives. The implementation of the M&E Protocol will lead to:

- i. Strengthen the MTI M&E culture;
- ii. Efficient and effective execution of MTI's policies, programmes and projects; and
- iii. Encourage evidence-based decision-making.

# 5.0 Financial Operations

## 5.1 Capital Expenditure

The following table provides a summary on the capital expenditure of projects under the Development Programme of the MTI. At the end of Fiscal 2017/18, 83.51 percent of the Ministry's revised allocation under the Development Programme was spent while 88.14 percent of Ministry's revised allocation under the Infrastructure Development Fund was utilised.

### Statement of Capital Expenditure Extract as at September 30 2017 (End of Financial Period)

Project No.	Item/Sub-item/Group/Project	2018 Allocation	2018 Revised Allocation	Expenditure as at September 30, 2018	Unspent Balance	% of Funds Unutilised
F304	Development of a Business Development Programme	500,000	216,505	216,505	-	0%
R001	Investment Promotion Initiatives and Development	3,000,000	978,133	978,133	-	0%
R005	International Market Development- Country	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	0%
R007	Establishment of Research and Development Facility	700,000	552,000	552,000	-	0%
R011	Support to Enabling competitive Businesses.	0	70,000	70,000	-	0%
R014	Business Development of the Creative Industries	500,000	30,000	30,000	-	0%
R016	Enhancement of the Single Electronic Window (IDB Loan)	20,000,000	11,961,991	8,327,560	3,634,431	30.38%
R017	New Economic Zones Development - Moruga	13,300,000	7,774,500	7,774,500	-	0%-
R019	Development of the Music Industry	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	0%
R021	Development of the Film Industry	2,500,000	1,826,000	1,826,000	-	0%
R023	Development of the Fashion Industry	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,500,000	-	0%

## Statement of Capital Expenditure Extract as at September 30 2016 (End of Financial Period)

Project No.	Item/Sub-item/Group/Project	2018 Allocation	2018 Revised Allocation	Expenditure as at September 30, 2018	Unspent Balance	% of Funds Unutilised
B220	TTBS-Enhancing the Quality Infrastructure for Trinidad and Tobago	300,000	230,000	230,000	-	0%
A008	Inward Investment - Non Petroleum Initiatives	2,000,000	1,400,000	168,290.30	1,231,709.70	87.98%
A018	Feasibility Study of the Export Financing Mechanism for Service Providers and Pilot Programmes	400,000	400,000	-	400,000	100%
<b>Total of Development Programme</b>		<b>49,700,000</b>	<b>31,939,129</b>	<b>26,672,988.30</b>	<b>5,266,140.70</b>	<b>16.49%</b>
F001	Upgrade of NAPA Facilities	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	1,000,000	100%
Q303	Single Electronic Window for Trade & Business	17,000,000	7,433,727	7,433,727	-	0%
<b>Total of Infrastructure Development Fund</b>		<b>18,000,000</b>	<b>8,433,727</b>	<b>7,433,727</b>	<b>1,000,000</b>	<b>11.86%</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>68,200,000</b>	<b>40,372,856</b>	<b>34,106,415.30</b>	<b>6,266,440.70</b>	<b>15.52%</b>

# 6.0

## Human Resource Development Plan

The Human Resources Unit (HRU) is charged with managing the selection and development of the human capital of the MTI. To do this, the HRU facilitates the recruitment and development of staff to ensure that a competent talent pool is available to support the execution of the MTI mandate.

To ensure the continued development of staff during Fiscal 2018, the HRU conducted training and championed the full adoption of the performance appraisal process. Additionally, the HRU reviewed and implemented a new Orientation and Onboarding Programme. With regard to the complement of staff, the table below provides a summary of total, permanent and contract staff at the MTI.

### 6.1 Organisational Establishment and Employee Categories

Total Number of Established Permanent positions	265
Actual Number of Persons employed in Established Permanent positions	102
Number of Vacant Established Permanent positions	163
Total Number of Contract Positions	93
Actual Number of Contract Employees currently employed	46
Number of Vacant Contract Positions	47

# 7.0 Procurement Procedures

As a result of the impending implementation of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act 2016 (Amended) by the GoRTT, the MTI undertook the initiative to establish an interim procurement team to prepare for the adoption of the new procurement legislation.

In this regard, the Ministry has:

1. Conducted Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act 2016 (Amended) sensitisation workshops for staff.
2. Publicised on its website, the Annual Procurement Plan for Fiscal 2018 which will continue to be updated accordingly.
3. Streamlined the process of procurement of goods and services within the MTI for which an online database was created.

Furthermore, in Fiscal 2018, the MTI participated in a number of procurement training conducted by the Ministry of Planning and Development. The main objectives for these trainings are:

- i. To provide participants with a working knowledge of the procurement regulations;
- ii. To provide participants with an understanding of procurement procedures and the need for the development, implementation, and management of procurement procedures; and
- iii. To provide participants with the foundational knowledge to integrate the regulation requirements into procurements for the organisation.



## 8.0 Public and Community Relations



### Opening Ceremony for the Unicomer's Freeport Facility

To support job creation and economic growth, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon delivered the feature presentation at the Opening Ceremony for the Unicomer's Freeport Facility on 7th November, 2017.



### Media Launch of the Ultra Bespoke Tailoring Programme

On 15th November, 2018, to boost the growth of the Fashion Industry, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon affirmed that this programme stems away from our reliance on oil and gas and one step closer to harnessing the talents of our creative sector. This creates opportunities for our existing and potential designers, dressmakers, tailors and many others in the fashion value chain.





## Launch of Baron Foods T&T Limited

The launch of Baron Foods T&T Limited took place on 25th November. The Minister highlighted the importance of strengthening our investment climate and creating job opportunities and stimulate growth in our local market.

## Sod Turning Ceremony for Nutrimix's Next Generation Hatchery

In August, 2018, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Ms. Paula Gopee-Scoon turned the sod for the construction of Nutrimix's next Hatchery in Couva. The Minister indicated that this investment will bring benefits beyond the Nutrimix Group as it will also strengthen and build capacity in the local poultry industry and the wider manufacturing and agriculture value chains through collaboration with suppliers and customers.



## Republic Bank's Trade Facilitation Summit

On 13th September 2018, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Ms. Paula Gopee-Scoon attended the Republic Bank's Trade Facilitation Summit. The Trade and Industry Minister described Trinidad and Tobago as the ideal trade and investment destination and that the Government is intent on increasing Trinidad and Tobago's export of goods and services to more markets around the world.

# 9.0 The Way Forward

In Fiscal 2019, the MTI will aim to implement those policy initiatives approved by Cabinet in Fiscal 2018. The MTI will also seek to execute initiatives designed to support the achievement of its mandate for business, trade, investment and consumer empowerment. These initiatives will include the following main projects:

- The development of the **Trade Policy and Strategy** for Trinidad and Tobago aimed at growing exports.
- The development of a **Trade Mission Strategy**, which will formalise and coordinate international Trade Mission.
- Continue the facilitation of donors through the implementation of the **Aid for Trade Strategy**.
- Continue the implementation of the new **Research and Development Facility** under exporTT.
- The implementation of the **National Quality Policy**.
- Continue the implementation of the **Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy**.
- The implementation of the **National e-Commerce Strategy**.
- Continue the implementation and expansion of the **Single Electronic Window**.
- Continued development of the new **Agro-Processing & Light Industrial Park** in Moruga.
- Continued tenanting of **Tamana In-Tech Park**.
- The development of the new **Phoenix Park Industrial Estate** in Couva focused on light and high value manufacturing.
- The development of the **Alutech Research and Development Facility (ARDF)** at the Tamana InTech Park (TIP) focused on high value manufacturing.
- The Negotiation of **Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements with Chile and Panama** and other strategic partners.
- Conduct **Ease of Doing Business** reforms which include:
  - ▶ the implementation of a consultancy to Develop and Implement an Integrated Risk Management System (IRMS);
  - ▶ the implementation of an automated system for construction permits; and
  - ▶ the development of Electronic Funds Transfer Framework for electronic payments.
- Continue the implementation of **reforms under the Investment Facilitation Committee**.
- The implementation of the **Grant Fund Facility** to support small and medium businesses in the manufacturing and agro-processing sectors.

- Continue implementation of the action plan for the *Maritime Sector*.
- Implement the *Yachting Policy*.
- The Launch of Phase II of the *Live Music District* which will create new opportunities in the music industry and address the concerns of local stakeholders.
- The development of an *Artist Portfolio Development Programme* aimed at creating a strong, balanced portfolio of artistes to be readied for commercialization and international export.
- Operationalise the *Local Garment Production Facility*.
- Continued implementation of the Fashion Value Chain Programme which builds capacity in different areas in the Fashion Sector.
- Continued implementation of the *Bespoke Tailoring Programme* which builds capacity in different areas in the Fashion Sector.



# 10.0 Conclusion

In Fiscal 2018, the MTI embarked on a number of initiatives designed to lead and oversee the implementation of the GoRTT's policy for business development, trade, investment and consumer empowerment.

The MTI was successful in the execution of its main initiatives for Fiscal 2018. These initiatives resulted in improving ease of doing business, building business capacity for firms within the sectors targeted for diversification, facilitating investments and strengthening exports.

Initiatives executed included:

- i. Cabinet approved National Quality Policy;
- ii. Implementation of Grant Fund Facility for the manufacturing sector;
- iii. Implementation of the revised Research and Development Fund;
- iv. Enhancements of various modules in the Single Electronic Window for businesses;
- v. Implementation of the Investment Facilitation Framework for investment approvals;
- vi. Launch of the Live Music District in the Music Sector;
- vii. Launch of the Ultra Bespoke Tailoring Programme for the fashion industry;
- viii. Facilitation of trade missions to explore and grow exports; and
- ix. Implementation of export capacity building programmes.

In Fiscal 2019, the MTI will continue to support of the achievement of the NDS 2030 through the execution of its Strategic Plan 2016 to 2020. The MTI is dedicated to improving and sustaining the non-energy sector and will pursue initiatives that will contribute to the creation of a stable macroeconomic environment to allow for entrepreneurship; attracting investment and trade; and, producing high value products and services that can compete in export markets.







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