



ISSUE #1

OPM QUARTERLY

JULY 2016



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PRIME MINISTER ROWLEY VISITS GHANA

TRIBUTE

TO FORMER PRIME MINISTER MANNING



Patrick Augustus Mervyn Manning

August 17, 1946 - July 2, 2016

He was a man who would not ask you to do what he would not do himself. He was a man who made public service in this country honourable and who must have heard the question that John Kennedy asked his nation, "Ask not what your country can do for you, but ask what you can do for your country."

Patrick Manning asked that question and answered it.

Your legacy will live on forever.

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley at the State Funeral held in Honour of Former Prime Minister Patrick Manning

MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE DR. KEITH ROWLEY

Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

It is my pleasure to invite the staff of the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM), other members of the public service and the wider community to peruse our introductory issue of the OPM Quarterly.

In September 2015 when I took up office at OPM, I noted that I was surrounded by some wonderful, hardworking people whose knowledge and experience would be of immense benefit to both myself and the Cabinet.

I also noted that the key to the optimum running of the Office of the Prime Minister and all our Ministries would be TEAMWORK. Through this publication, we will give you an insight into the work of Team OPM.

For many, knowledge about the Office of the Prime Minister may only extend to the fact that the Prime Minister has his office there or the Cabinet meets there once a week and then hosts a Post-Cabinet media conference.

This newsletter will now allow us to better inform you about the full mandate of the OPM, while also sharing information about our staff and the many initiatives being undertaken to ensure that the OPM remains the champion of accountability, transparency and integrity; as we support new governance in Trinidad and Tobago.

I extend my thanks and congratulations to our editorial team for putting together this instructive newsletter. We hope that you enjoy our first edition and thank you for taking the time to read this publication.

*Dr the Honourable Keith Rowley
Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago*



“ **This newsletter will now allow us to better inform you about the full mandate of the OPM, while also sharing information about our staff and the many initiatives being undertaken to ensure that the OPM remains the champion of accountability, transparency and integrity; as we support new governance in Trinidad and Tobago.** ”

GREETINGS FROM MINISTER STUART YOUNG

In March of this year, I was privileged to be asked by Prime Minister Rowley to join his team at the Office of the Prime Minister, in addition to my portfolio as Minister in the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs.

Without hesitation I agreed to serve in this new capacity as Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, as I believe the OPM is pivotal to successful governance in Trinidad and Tobago.

Coming from a background in law, at OPM my role will involve communicating the decisions and findings of the Cabinet to the wider public through the media.

Many of these discussions will also be ventilated through OPM Quarterly, which I believe to be a very appropriate tool for interacting with the staff of the OPM, members of the public service and the citizens of this country.

I invite you to have a thorough read of our inaugural issue. We, at the OPM, look forward to your continued support of the OPM Quarterly.



*The Honourable Stuart Young
Minister in the Ministry of the Attorney
General and Legal Affairs and Minister
in the Office of the Prime Minister*

GREETINGS FROM MINISTER AYANNA WEBSTER-ROY

I congratulate the Permanent Secretary and her team on this initiative, aimed at opening up the Office of the Prime Minister to its many stakeholders.

As you may recall, effective November 2015, responsibilities for matters relating to the Children's Authority, Child Development, Children's Homes, Children with special needs, Community Residences, Orphanages and Gender Affairs were removed from the purview of the Ministry of Social Development and Family Services and assigned to the Office of the Prime Minister.

I was charged with the responsibility to oversee these expanded functions of the Office of the Prime Minister in addition to my initial portfolio of Minister of Tobago Affairs, within the Office of the Prime Minister.

OPM Quarterly will offer an avenue to stay informed on decisions and developments related to our Nation's children and matters of relevance to Tobago, under the jurisdiction of Central Government. Through our future editions, I will be delighted to share with you the work and

accomplishments of the divisions of Gender and Child Affairs and Tobago Affairs.

Please, take the time now to enjoy OPM Quarterly.



*The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy
Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister*

MESSAGE FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

I am delighted to share with you the first edition of the OPM Quarterly.

Having assumed the position of Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister and Head of the Public Service and, noting that the OPM is largely responsible for co-ordinating the implementation of decisions taken by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, I strongly believe that there must be on-going communication emanating from the Office of the Prime Minister to its many publics.

Through this publication we will give you an overview of the varied roles, responsibilities and functions of the OPM. We will highlight our staff and their accomplishments and bring to the forefront the principles and objectives which guide us in the performance of our duties. We will also keep you informed on Government's Legislative Agenda, the progress of Cabinet-appointed committees, Cabinet decisions and their impact on our country's development.

As we move forward, we trust that OPM Quarterly will become an excellent resource to continue our dialogue with you, as we transform the public service to improve service delivery in Trinidad and Tobago. Do enjoy our first edition.



*Mrs. Sandra Jones
Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister
and Head of the Public Service*

A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to OPM Quarterly, the official newsletter of the Office of the Prime Minister.

For our colleagues in the public service, OPM Quarterly will give you an in depth understanding of the work of the OPM and our input into national development; allow you to meet our staff and, share in our plans for more effectively conducting the business of Government.

To our staff, we believe that this newsletter, through showcasing our employees and the role and work of each division will deepen the camaraderie we currently enjoy and facilitate greater cohesion among units and divisions.

We look forward to the support of staff in keeping this publication informative and meaningful. To our wider readership, we trust that this newsletter will afford you greater insight into the Office of the Prime Minister and we invite all of you to share your comments with us to enable us to keep our editions timely and relevant.

We would love to hear from you.



*Ms Arlene Gorin-George
Press Secretary - Office of the Prime Minister
Editor-in-Chief*

WHAT CAN WE EXPECT FROM PRIME MINISTER ROWLEY'S OFFICIAL OVERSEAS VISITS?

What it all means for T&T.

The Government, led by Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, is on a mission to improve every facet of our twin-island republic. An integral element of this national rejuvenation is the strengthening of Trinidad and Tobago's relationships with our regional and international counterparts.

As the Head of Government, Prime Minister Rowley has spearheaded this initiative. In May 2016, Prime Minister Rowley undertook an official trip to the United States of America, Ghana and the United Kingdom. During this time, he engaged with several world leaders and represented Trinidad and Tobago in a number of important fora. But what does the country stand to gain?

• Maintenance of Diplomatic Relations

The ever observant global community is constantly assessing the stability of nations, particularly during the period subsequent to an election. Working visits such as these illustrate that Trinidad and Tobago is not only stable but prepared and capable of conducting business. It allows our leaders to emphasise and re-iterate commitments to mutual causes and joint efforts and ensures that Trinidad and Tobago is a part of global consultation and decision making.

• The Expansion of Trade

Working visits can also yield avenues to expand the local economy by creating access to foreign markets and joint endeavours. For example, Trinidad and Tobago and Ghana signed a General Cooperation Agreement on energy, a highly profitable industry. The Prime Minister also received two (2) delegations from Nigeria to discuss opportunities for future cooperation.

• Additional Avenues for Investment

Dr. Rowley met with the head of the Carlyle group of companies, the President and senior executives of the International Development Bank (IDB) as well as executives of British Petroleum (BP). During these meetings, the potential for increased foreign investment in Trinidad and Tobago was high on the agenda. Dr. Rowley also took part in the US-Caribbean-Central American Energy Security in Washington D.C. This is of great significance when one considers that Trinidad and Tobago's economy is heavily based on the energy industry.

• Collaborative Efforts

In addition to the Energy Summit, Prime Minister Rowley also participated in the Anti-corruption Summit hosted by the Prime Minister of Great Britain David Cameron in London. More recently, the Prime Minister attended the Seventh Summit of Heads of State and/or Government of the Association of Caribbean States (ACS) in Cuba.

At these platforms, small developing states such as Trinidad and Tobago, are able to band together and prepare for challenges which can be better addressed as a united force.

Prime Minister Rowley also met with the President of Howard University, Dr Wayne Frederick. The discussions at this meeting centred on the opportunity for Trinidad and Tobago and Howard University to collaborate in the areas of health care training and other human resource issues with a view to improving health care delivery in Trinidad and Tobago.

• Reaching out to the Diaspora

The Prime Minister also took the opportunity to engage with members of the Trinbagonian diaspora when he delivered the feature address at the Medgar Evers College Inaugural International Education Awards Presentation Ceremony. The efforts and contributions of nationals who live abroad must not only be recognised but encouraged as we seek to establish long-standing revenue streams.

BUILDING STRONG LEADERS

The OPM, in conjunction with the Ministry of Public Administration and Communications, recently conducted a workshop, the main theme of which was “Reflection”.

The workshop was held from June 29th– July 1st, 2016 and was repeated from July 13th – July 15th 2016 in order to capture all Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments of the Public Service.

The workshop addressed the following competencies:

1. Reflective Self-Awareness Competency
2. Leadership for Results
3. Integrity and Respect Competency

As part of the programme, six (6) retired Permanent Secretaries were asked to share their experiences and offer guidance to those present. The workshop was lively and involved active participation by the attendees.

The facilitator for this event was Dr. Roland G. Baptiste.

On the third day of the workshop, the Minister of Finance, the Honourable Colm Imbert, and the Minister of Planning and Development, the Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis made presentations to the attendees and opened the floor for questions.



In photos: Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and Heads of Departments of the Public Service along with other attendees participate in the workshop titled “Reflection”.



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
(GENDER AND CHILD AFFAIRS)**

CHILDREN ARE OUR RESPONSIBILITY...

Are we taking all the right precautions to protect them?



CHILDREN HAVE THE RIGHT TO PROTECTION AND THEREFORE NEED CONTINUOUS SUPERVISION AT ALL TIMES

■ NEVER LEAVE CHILDREN ALONE

Always check on your children, whether they are asleep, in a crib, bed or at play. Always keep your children within your eyesight.

Never leave children unattended near water. Drowning can occur in less than an inch of water, making bathtubs, sinks, pools, ponds and even buckets a source of great danger. It only takes a few seconds for drowning to occur.

Make sure you have a fence around the pool or pond to keep young children from wandering around these areas. Wading pools or splash pools should always be emptied when playtime is over.

■ KEEP CLEANING MATERIALS AND OTHER CHEMICALS AWAY FROM CHILDREN

Many household products are potentially poisonous to children if swallowed or inhaled. Children are naturally curious. It is the adult's responsibility to keep these substances locked away or out of the reach of children, such as on high shelves.

Install cabinet guards on any cabinet where medicine, cleaners, chemicals or garden fertilizers are stored. Keep these products in their original container; do not store them in a container

where they might be mistaken for food. If an accident occurs, contact the Poison Hotline at 800-2PIC(2742).

Keep matches, cigarettes and lighters out of the reach of children. Monitor children closely around hot pots, lit ovens and irons.

■ KEEP SLEEPING AREAS AS BARE AS POSSIBLE, ESPECIALLY FOR BABIES

Keep your baby's crib as bare as possible. An infant's nose and mouth can be covered accidentally by soft fluffy pillows, comforters or stuffed animals, restricting their ability to breathe.

■ KEEP SMALL ITEMS AND FOOD OUT OF REACH

Most choking injuries occur with food items. Cut your children's meals and snacks into bite-sized pieces. Children are at risk from choking on small candies, nuts, hot dogs, grapes, carrots and popcorn. Keep these foods out of their reach.

Make sure small household items such as coins, buttons, jewelry, small balls and pins, are stored away from children's reach to avoid accidental choking. Don't select toys with many small parts. Look for labelling on toys with small parts that warn they are not safe for children under 3 years old.

■ BE PREPARED FOR AN EMERGENCY

Unfortunately accidents do happen. The best thing you can do is prepare yourself for an emergency. Here are some ways to be prepared:

- Learn Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and the abdominal thrust procedure (Heimlich manoeuvre).
- Assemble a first aid kit with emergency instructions.
- Keep important numbers near your phone such as poison control, your pediatrician, your work and cell phone numbers, and a neighbour or nearby relative.

As soon as your children are old enough to know their own names and addresses, teach them to dial 9-9-9 to call for help in case of an emergency.

**Children's Authority
of Trinidad and
Tobago: 996 or
800-2014**

**ChildLine: 131 or
800-4321**



**Tel: 868-627-1163
Website: www.opm-gca.gov.tt**



INVESTING IN OUR PEOPLE

Protocol Training and Manual

The Office of the Prime Minister, as the leading Government ministry, has embarked on an initiative to provide protocol training to each member of staff. Mrs. Lenore S. Dorset, a renowned authority on protocol, was engaged for the process.

During her time at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as the Chief of Protocol, Mrs. Dorset was often required to liaise with the Office of the President. She fulfilled this requirement during the term of two Presidents - His Excellency Sir Ellis Emmanuel Innocent Clarke, TC, GCMG as well as His Excellency Noor Mohamed Hassanali.

Today, the OPM is also benefitting from her extensive wisdom and advice on such matters as Mrs. Dorset has authored a Protocol Manual for the Office of the Prime Minister.

With her many years of experience in the Foreign Service and later as Executive Assistant to past Presidents of Trinidad and Tobago –His Excellency Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson SC, OCC, TC and His Excellency Arthur Napoleon Raymond Robinson SC, OCC, TC – she has already offered the OPM staff a great deal of her vast reservoir of knowledge during the initial training sessions.

It is our hope that this training can be expanded to other ministries and state enterprises as Trinidad and Tobago works towards strengthening our regional and international foothold.



Mrs. Lenore S. Dorset leads a session on Protocol with employees of the Gender and Child Affairs Division. (Friday 17th June, 2016)



Mrs. Lenore S. Dorset displays the Protocol Manual of the Office of the Prime Minister. (Friday 17th June, 2016)



Workshop attendees listen attentively to Mrs. Lenore S. Dorset as she leads a session on Protocol. (Friday 17th June, 2016)

DID YOU KNOW?

State Visits are paid by Heads of States. Official Visits are paid by Prime Ministers and other Ministers and Officials.



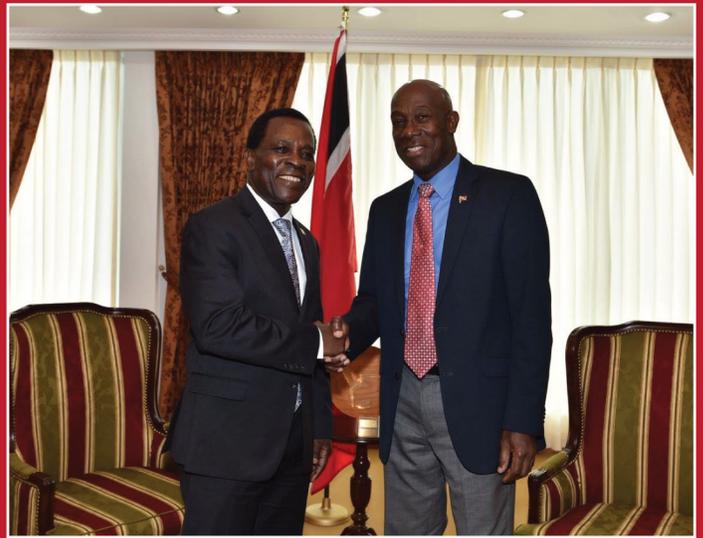
PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

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Visits by Heads of Government



Prime Minister Dr. Rowley and President of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, His Excellency Nicolás Maduro, prior to bilateral discussions.



Prime Minister of Grenada pays a courtesy call.

Children Visit Prime Minister at the Diplomatic Centre



The Prime Minister with students of the North Regional S.D.A. Primary School during a tour of the Diplomatic Centre.



The Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago is greeted by His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, President of Ghana.

COURTESY CALLS



A representative of The Gideons International presents Prime Minister Dr. Rowley with a token during a courtesy call.



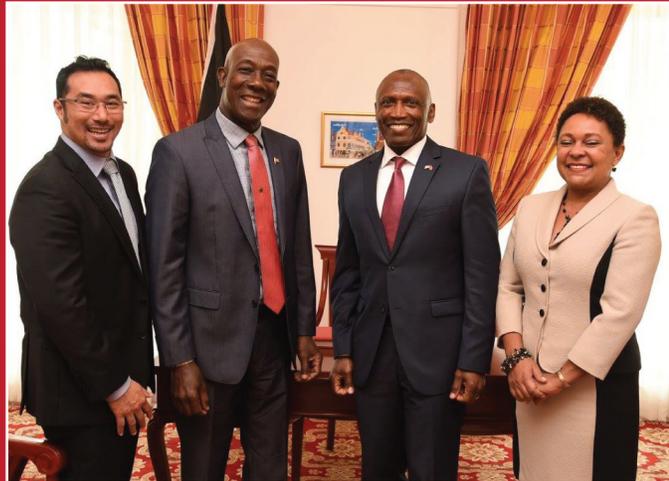
Prime Minister Rowley is greeted by the Interim University President of the University of the Southern Caribbean, Dr. Sylvan Lashley.



Prime Minister receives courtesy call from UWI Chancellor.



The Prime Minister received Admiral Kurt W. Tidd, United States Navy, Commander of the U.S.S. Command.



Prime Minister Dr. Rowley receives the United States Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, Sergeant Major (retired) John L. Estrada.



Prime Minister meets with representatives of the Sural Group.



The Prime Minister greets the President and Chief Executive Officer of PotashCorp, Mr. Jochen Tilk.

HAPPENING IN TOBAGO

“Our education system is failing insofar as what we are really achieving is putting our children through school and not educating them... We have become mired in the basis of our education system and that is to be overly concerned with certification and not education... Because you see, it is one thing to set about to educate and

to accept that we have educated because we can provide certificates. But what kind of citizens have we been producing as a result of our education system? If we fix the problems in the education system, we would have fixed the foundation of the future of Trinidad and Tobago.”

Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley at the third round of the National Consultation on Education in Tobago



Six (6) months after taking office, the Government embarked on their first Cabinet retreat at the Magdalena Grand Beach & Golf Resort in Tobago. The objective of the retreat was to review the Government's performance and develop strategies to improve going forward.

Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley leads a discussion during the Cabinet retreat in Tobago earlier this year.

DID YOU KNOW?

Upon taking office, the present Government declared that it will not support the degradation of legislation, in particular the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) Act, nor will it support the duplication of the statutory functions, powers or autonomy of the THA.

As a result, the Government mandated a review of the former Ministry of Tobago Development as well as the Human Capital Development Facilitation Company. A report (dated February 2016) was completed by Dr. Prince and Mrs. Ethel Hector-Berkley.

This is in keeping with the Government's efforts to facilitate the introduction of internal self-government in Tobago in the manner that best benefits our twin island republic.

PUBLIC SERVICE DAY 2016

On June 23rd, the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) participated in the annual Public Service Fair. The fair has been held annually since 2012 in recognition of United Nations Public Service Day.

The Ministry of Public Administration and Communications invited all government ministries to showcase their respective initiatives during the week-long open house held at the NALIS building in Port of Spain. This year, the theme was Innovating for Excellence in Service Delivery.

The OPM booth featured literature, paraphernalia as well as an on-screen display of photos and video promoting various citizen-centric undertakings of the OPM, including:

- OPM social media and online services (e.g. the Citizens Facilitation Portal)
- The National Awards and nomination process
- Gender Development and Child Affairs programmes (e.g. the Women in Harmony Programme and the Defining Masculine Excellence Programme) as well as information on social issues (e.g. 'Break the Silence' and anti-bullying campaigns, domestic violence, male awareness on reproductive health and child rearing)

The exhibit proved to be a successful venture, serving to inform the public and encourage staff collaboration in the process. We hope to see you all next year!



The Gender Development and Child Affairs Division of the OPM offers insight on the services available at the unit.



OPM display - members of staff interact with visitors.



Displays by the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government (left) and the Judiciary (right).



DEAR OPM STAFF!

Are you aware of the accident/ incident reporting mechanisms?

The OPM recognises that a safe work environment must be a main priority. This is because the occurrence of accidents can potentially have a debilitating impact on employees, not only personally but also at the level of the organisation. At the OPM, it is a matter of critical importance that all persons using our facilities understand the need to report accidents and incidents that may occur from time to time. Staff must be fully aware of the protocols which govern these occurrences in order to reduce risks as well as prevent reoccurrences.

Additionally, it is critical that the OPM continues to be compliant with relevant legislation regarding HSE in order to execute our mandate. For more information, contact the Health and Safety Unit and ask about **Form No.001**.



ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE RAINS?

As this year's rainy season washes over Trinidad and Tobago, are you prepared for heavy rains or a flood?

DID YOU KNOW?

The Citizens' Facilitation Unit at the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM) was established to facilitate greater support to the citizens, in particular the elderly, attempting to obtain assistance from various government agencies, departments, institutions and even private organisations.

The unit offers support in dispute resolution. Staff act on behalf of the citizens and ensure that their matters are received by the relevant bodies. For example, the poor and needy are directed, with the help of a letter, phone call, etc., to the most appropriate government department which can provide some aid.

The unit also mediates with the persons/offices/ organisations involved and keeps citizens informed of their rights and any new developments which may affect them in some way.

For more information contact us at:
1-868-622-1625

Pack the following essentials in a water tight container:

- ✓ Bottled water
- ✓ Canned food
- ✓ Flashlight and batteries
- ✓ Light clothing



Prepare an evacuation plan and get to know the location of the emergency shelters nearest to you.

Being in the know is as easy as following emergency responders such as the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management on social media.

Follow them on Facebook at @ODPMTT for more info!

Don't get caught out in the rain!





READY. SET. GO!

Trinidad and Tobago in Rio

One of the world's most anticipated sporting events - the 2016 Summer Olympic Games – is upon us!

This year, the Olympics will be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from August 5th – 21st. It is expected to feature 42 sporting events and participants from 206 countries.

The Office of the Prime Minister takes this opportunity to wish all athletes representing Trinidad and Tobago the very best! Forge ahead bravely as you represent the red, white and black!

Good luck to you all!



DID YOU KNOW?

Trinidad and Tobago is party to five (5) main international human rights conventions including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

This Convention deals specifically with the protection of the rights of children, setting out the civil, political, social, health and cultural rights of children.

For more information contact the Gender and Child Affairs Division at **1-868-627-1163** or genderaffairs@gov.tt



If you have concerns about a child's safety, report it. Call 996 or 800-2014. Visit our website at www.ttchildren.org

Caring • Supporting • Protecting



THE CABINET CORNER

Since the election of the new government, three (3) Committees have been commissioned by the Cabinet:

1. Committee to review the Levels of Health Care Delivery by the Regional Health Authorities and to rationalize the System of Public Sector Doctors in Private Practice (16th November 2015)
2. Committee to conduct a Holistic Review of the current Early Childhood Education and Primary School Education Curriculum (20th January 2016)
3. Committee to develop a refereed foundation Textbook on the History of Trinidad and Tobago (20th January 2016).

Regional Health Authorities (RHA) with the passing of the Regional Health Authorities Act No. 5 in 1994.

It is highlighted in the government's policy that one of the key features in establishing a modern health care system is the development of "objective standards of care".

New systems to be developed must therefore strive to ensure that proper standards of care for the national health care system (public and private) are established, supported by the appropriate legislation, regulations and guidelines to make them binding on all health care practitioners and institutions, in order to improve service delivery and accountability and to protect the public interest.



In photo: Prime Minister Dr. Rowley, the Minister of Health, the Hon. Terrence Deyalsingh and the Minister of Public Administration and Communications stand with members of the committee.

Featured Committee:

This quarter's featured Committee is the Committee to review the Levels of Health Care Delivery by the Regional Health Authorities and to rationalize the System of Public Sector Doctors in Private Practice.

Health care in Trinidad and Tobago operates under a dual system, that is, the co-existence of public and private health care facilities. While the overarching responsibility for health care lies with the Ministry of Health, the public service provision aspect was devolved to the Regional Health Authorities (RHA) with the passing of the Regional Health Authorities Act No. 5 in 1994.

It is highlighted in the government's policy that one of the key features in establishing a modern health care system is the development of "objective standards of care".

New systems to be developed must therefore strive to ensure that proper standards of care for the national health care system (public and private) are established, supported by the appropriate legislation, regulations and guidelines to make them binding on all health care practitioners

and institutions, in order to improve service delivery and accountability and to protect the public interest. In light of the foregoing the Prime Minister, through the Ministry of Health, established this Committee to review the current operating standards of the RHAs and their impact on its service delivery metrics. Additionally, the Committee will seek to rationalise the system and framework governing doctors who pursue private practice while in the employ of public institutions.

The Committee is required to review this operational conflict and its impact on healthcare delivery as well as to submit recommendations to resolve the situation. Ultimately, this will ensure that the nation receives the greatest value for financial investments in these professionals and institutions.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRESSES

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago is committed to ensuring that the laws of the land provide more than adequate protection to all citizens. This includes the amendment and introduction of laws to properly address the issues of the present time. Have a look at some of the latest legislative developments below.

- ***The Strategic Services Agency (Amendment) Bill, 2016 – Currently Awaiting Proclamation***

Extract: The purpose of the Bill, 2016 is to amend the Strategic Services Agencies Act, Chap.15:06 (SSA) to expand the remit of the Strategic Services Agency to include broader law enforcement co-ordination and intelligence functions. The Bill contains five clauses and, after it is passed, will come into effect upon Proclamation.

The aim is to broaden the definition of “serious crime” and establish a coordinated and integrated intelligence structure to deal with a wide range of crime and criminality, not solely drug-related activities.

- ***The Whistleblower Protection Bill, 2015 - Currently before a Joint Select Committee of Parliament***

Extract: An act to combat corruption and other wrongdoings by encouraging and facilitating disclosures of improper conduct in the public and private sector, to protect persons making those disclosures from detrimental action, to regulate the receiving, investigating or otherwise dealing with disclosures of improper conduct and to provide for other matters connected therewith.

The aim is to create an environment in which a) persons with knowledge of wrong-doings can safely come forward and disclose what they know and b) perpetrators can be held accountable.

- ***The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property (Amendment) Bill, 2015 – Committee Report Debated and Adopted***

Extract: The Bill seeks to amend the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act, 2015 to make provision for the removal of the Regulator by a tribunal, the establishment of a Public Procurement Review Board, the disposal of State Lands and other related matters.

The aim is to reduce avenues for fiduciary breaches and increase levels of accountability in government organisations.

OPM EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

VYASH NANDLAL

Vyash Nandlal is a graduate of the Florida International University, Miami Florida, with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics. He also possesses a Master of Sciences Degree in International Finance from the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business, graduating with a Distinction. Other concluded courses include certificates in Corporate Governance, The Board and Strategy and Risk from the Caribbean Corporate Governance Institute. Prior to commencing at the Office of the Prime Minister, Mr Nandlal worked as a Technical Advisor in the Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government and also served as Research Specialist in the Office of the Leader of the Opposition. Mr Nandlal was appointed a Director in the Sport Company of Trinidad and Tobago where he serves as Chairman of the Finance Sub Committee and also sits on the Board of Directors of the Environmental Management Authority.

Work in Non Profit organizations is also a passion of Mr Nandlal. He has previously served as President of the Undergraduate Economics Association in Florida International University and currently serves as Vice President of Finance in the Heliconia Foundation for Young Professionals. Mr Nandlal is also an avid cricketer, playing and also serving in the executive of a Cricket Club in his community in Central, Trinidad where he also assists in Cricket administration on the Zonal level. As Advisor to the Prime Minister, Mr Nandlal seeks to complement his strong research capabilities with his professional expertise and experience to enable decision making that is driven by accurate information, reliable data and detailed analysis. Areas of professional interest include national economic development and development of national and regional financial

markets. In his spare time, Mr Nandlal enjoys playing cricket and hiking the various nature trails across the country.



OPM PARTICIPATES IN SPORTING LEAGUE

During the months of June to August last year, the Office of the Prime Minister was represented in an inter-ministerial football and cricket league launched by the Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs.

The two teams comprised of representatives from different departments of the head office as well as employees of the National Operations Centre(NOC).

Even though they weren't victorious in the end, the team worked hard and built a strong bond though camaraderie.

The OPM will be represented again this year and we hope to have a stronger team and, most of all, to have fun.



TRIBUTE TO DECEASED



The Office of the Prime Minister wishes to recognise the years of dedicated service by dearly departed employees, Agent Michael Dennis and Mr. Rahaman Hassanali of the Security Unit. While you are no longer in this world with us, we join your family, friends and loved ones in remembering your beautiful souls. May you rest in peace.

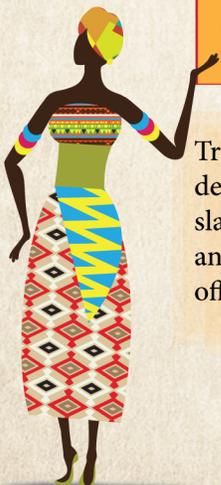
EMANCIPATION FASHION

Many styles of African garb are celebrated for their elaborate head wraps, bold colours and intricate patterns. Here are a few styles from which you can draw inspiration for your next outfit!



DID YOU KNOW?

Trinidad and Tobago was the first country in the world to declare a national holiday to commemorate the abolition of slavery. On 1 August 1985, in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the end of slavery, Emancipation Day was officially declared a national holiday in Trinidad and Tobago.



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Office of the Prime Minister Trinidad and Tobago

A LOOK BACK IN THE ARCHIVES

Between the years 1969 and 1973, Harold La Borde became the first Trinbagonian to sail around the world. He completed the journey, along with his wife and son, on his 40-ft home built boat – Humming Bird II. Upon the return of the La Bordes from their first circumnavigation of the world in 1973, the Right Honourable Eric Williams, the first Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, greeted Mr. La Borde and said to him, “You have lighted a beacon which I trust never shall be put out in Trinidad and Tobago.” Today, those words still ring true as, although Mr. La Borde has completed his worldly journey, his legacy lives on.



(From left to right) Dr. the Honourable Eric Williams, Mrs. Kwaitan La Borde, Mr. Nicholas Simbonnet, Pierre La Borde and Mr. Harold La Borde.