



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## Ministry of Trade and Industry

TI: 2/2/29

May 20, 2023

The Honourable Bridgid Annisette-George, MP  
Speaker of the House  
Speaker's Chambers  
Office of the Parliament  
The Red House  
St. Vincent Street,  
**Port-of-Spain**

Dear Madam Speaker,

**Re: The Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee  
on the Implementation of the 2021 Budget with Emphasis on the "Green Economy"**

Reference is made to your letter dated April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, informing the Ministry of Trade and Industry of its requirement to respond to the relevant section of the Report at caption.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is pleased to submit its response to the recommendations outlined on pages 16 to 20 of the Committee's Report. The response is enclosed for your attention.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is committed to fulfilling its obligations to the House of Representatives and is ready to provide further assistance as required.

Sincerely,



**Permanent Secretary**

Encl.





# **Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee Examination of the implementation of the 2021 Budget with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.**

**Recommendations directed to the Ministry of Trade and Industry (pages 16-20) of the Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee.**

**Recommendations for the Ninth PAAC:**

## **1. The strategy implemented to ensure environmental sustainability was integrated in trading activity.**

The Ministry stated that Trinidad and Tobago (T&T) was a signatory to a number of environmentally conscious international and regional convention and treaties such as:

- environmental pollution;
- damaging of natural resources through dumping of toxic industrial waste materials;
- preservation of biodiversity;
- protection of flora and fauna; and
- limiting of ozone depleting materials and substances that cause global warming and climate change.

**Observation:**

- **The Committee recognizes the efforts made by the MTI to ensure T&T's trading activity is environmentally sustainable.**

**Recommendations:**

- **The MTI should submit to Parliament by May 31, 2023:**
  - the specific policies implemented in compliance with the abovementioned regional and international instruments;**
  - the impact observed from those policies, including the general outcome indicators and the specific benchmarks based on those indicators, which were used to measure the impact; and**
  - the measures to be implemented to ensure that these impacts are sustained.**

**Recommendations for the Ninth PAAC - MTI's Response to Question 1:**

- a. The specific policies implemented in compliance with the abovementioned regional and international instruments;**

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) in developing its policies ensures that it is in compliance with international treaties, conventions and agreements that Trinidad and Tobago is signatory to such as those attached at Appendix I. It should be noted that there are no specific environmental treaties that fall within the remit of the MTI but policies are in compliance with the country's international obligations.

The Trinidad and Tobago Trade Policy (TTTP) 2019-2023 has taken into account Trinidad and Tobago's international obligations.

**Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations  
Committee Examination of the implementation of the 2021 Budget  
with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.**

- b. The impact observed from those policies, including the general outcome indicators and the specific benchmarks based on those indicators, which were used to measure the impact; and**

Not applicable

- c. The measures to be implemented to ensure that these impacts are sustained.**

Not applicable

**2. Policy Support and Implementation**

In its written response, the MTI indicated that the Ministry was in support of T&T becoming a Green Economy. The Ministry stated that this was evident in the various policies and documents created such as:

**i. Trinidad and Tobago Trade Policy (TTTP) 2019-2023 –**

Towards Sustainable Economic Growth and Diversification. The TTTP was formulated with the guidance of T&T's National Development Strategy (NDS) - Vision 2030 to build environmental sustainability within the framework of commitments under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The MTI was pursuing the development of Green Industries given the potential it affords for not only achieving sustainable growth but also employment creation. One of the activities under this strategy is to engage in environment-friendly trade practices that protect and conserve the country's environment.

The challenges the MTI may encounter when aligning trade activity with a Green Economy as highlighted in the TTTP include - but are not limited to - the following:

- An inadequate legal framework and institutional capacity to monitor the impact of trade on the environment and to enforce compliance with the requirements of environmental treaties and conventions.
- A general lack of awareness of environmentally friendly practices.
- Low public and business stakeholder appreciation of the environmental issues raised by trade.
- May not be financially prudent to undertake environmentally friendly projects as the cost of these initiatives sometimes outweigh a positive financial return.

Because of the above, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago's (GORTT's) primary challenges will be to build stakeholder awareness and ensure adequate compliance with domestic laws and international treaties and conventions and the associated regulations.

## **Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee Examination of the implementation of the 2021 Budget with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.**

### **ii. The Yachting Policy of T&T 2017-2021 –**

In June 2017, the Cabinet of Trinidad and Tobago approved the Yachting Policy of Trinidad and Tobago 2017 – 2021. The overarching goal of the policy was to optimise the economic contribution of the Yachting Sector towards the sustainable development of T&T. One specific objective of the Policy was to improve the environmental and social sustainability of the Yachting Sector. In fulfilment of this objective, a Guidebook on Sustainable and Environmental Practices for Boatyards and Marinas in T&T was developed as a collaborative effort between the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), Environmental Management Authority (EMA) and the MTI. The Guidebook seeks to promote good environmental stewardship while contributing to the development of the Sector and encourages marinas and boatyards to achieve excellence in environmental management, disaster risk reduction, environmental education and safety.

### **iii. Development of a National Maritime Policy and Strategy for T&T –**

On February 1, 2021, the MTI in partnership with the Ministry of Works and Transport (MOWT) launched a project to develop a National Maritime Policy and Strategy for T&T. The Policy will have a specific focus on maximizing the sustainable use of T&T's ocean and sea resources, while enabling growth of the maritime economy through improving the competitiveness of the shipping industry and balancing safety and sector interest.

### **iv. National Quality Policy (NQP)**

The NQP aims to facilitate the achievement by T&T's firms of a higher level of productivity, innovation, competitiveness and meeting of international requirements. The policy also supports consumers' health and environmental protection. One of the projects listed in the NQP's Implementation Plan was to create and implement an awareness programme to promote the realization of Green Economy Strategies. This project seeks to integrate the National Quality Policy with sustainability practices, which may include a more sustainable form of production such as renewable energies with the goal of defining and achieving established sustainability concerns. For example, the development of more efficient energy usage or eco-friendlier operational processes and sustainability standards is an area of focus.

#### **Recommendations:**

- **The MTI should submit to Parliament by May 31, 2023:**
  - **a list of the initiatives implemented to achieve sustainable growth, environment-friendly trade practices and data on the sectors in which employment was created;**
  - **the status of the development of a National Maritime Policy and Strategy for T&T and the ways this policy, when implemented, would support T&T becoming a Green Economy; and**



## **Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee Examination of the implementation of the 2021 Budget with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.**

- a detailed update on all projects and programmes implemented by the MTI in fiscal year 2022 as well as those planned for fiscal year 2023, as part of the fulfilment of the policies stated above.
- The MTI should submit to Parliament by May 31, 2023, the activities undertaken to ensure stakeholder awareness and adequate compliance with domestic laws, international treaties and conventions and the associated regulations.

### **Recommendations for the Ninth PAAC - MTI's Response to Question 2:**

- **A list of the initiatives implemented to achieve sustainable growth, environment-friendly trade practices and data on the sectors in which employment was created;**

The list of the initiatives implemented to achieve sustainable growth and environment-friendly trade practices include:

1. The National Quality Policy
2. The National Maritime Policy and
3. The Trinidad and Tobago Trade Policy

#### National Quality Policy

As part of the implementation of the National Quality Policy, one of the projects that the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) is supporting is *Creating and Implementing an Awareness Programme to promote National Quality Infrastructure in the realization of the Green Economy Strategies*.

The MTI, through the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) is participating in the regional programme – Capacity Building in Technical and Scientific Organizations Using Regional Experiences and Knowledge (CABUREK) in Latin America and the Caribbean for Quality Infrastructure for the Circular Economy. The TTBS participated in the 4th CABUREK- Workshop (Online) from March 27 - 31, 2023. The TTBS is currently reviewing the National work plans for the CABUREK Circular Economy project, which will be subsequently updated. This work plan will support the implementation of the project.

- **The status of the development of a National Maritime Policy and Strategy for T&T and the ways this policy, when implemented, would support T&T becoming a Green Economy**

#### Development of a National Maritime Policy and Strategy for Trinidad and Tobago

The National Maritime Policy and Strategy was submitted for the consideration of the Cabinet in March 2022, by the Ministry of Works and Transport and is currently under the consideration of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of Cabinet. The Policy and Strategy focuses on maximizing the sustainable use of Trinidad and Tobago's ocean and sea resources, while enabling the growth of the Maritime

## **Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee Examination of the implementation of the 2021 Budget with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.**

economy; through improving business competitiveness, balancing safety and sector interests and improving the ease of doing business.

When implemented, some of the projects that would support T&T's Green Economy are outlined as follows:

1. Offshore Renewable Energies - Study the opportunity to promote offshore renewable energy production.

**Expected Impact:**

- Reduction of the T&T GHG emission for local energy consumption; and
- Increase the environmental and social benefits from gas production activities.

2. Alternative Fossil Fuels - Evaluate the opportunity to better leverage economic impact and reduce environmental consequences of Natural Gas production.

**Expected Impact:**

- A clear understanding of maximising potential options for T&T regarding its natural gas production; and
- Increased environmental and social benefits from gas production activities.

- **A detailed update on all projects and programmes implemented by the MTI in fiscal year 2022 as well as those planned for fiscal year 2023, as part of the fulfillment of the policies stated above.**

Activities undertaken by MTI for the Fiscal 2022 and Fiscal 2023 include

**Trinidad and Tobago Trade Policy (TTTP) 2019-2023**

In its previous response to the PAAC, the MTI had indicated that as part of the Export Booster Initiative, \$2.5 million would be allocated to assist firms to adopt more environmentally friendly or Green product packaging.

This initiative is now expected to be launched in FY2024.

# **Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee Examination of the implementation of the 2021 Budget with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.**

## **FISCAL 2022**

The MTI has continued work in several areas in relation to Green Initiatives through the implementation of the Trade Policy 2019-2023. The following are the key highlights for Fiscal 2022:

### **i. Multilateral Trading System**

The TTTP speaks to the removal of imbalance in WTO agreement and ensure compliance with international arrangements. The MTI continues to monitor engagements at the multilateral level, through the various Committees, negotiations and discussion at the WTO. Through these, Trinidad and Tobago follows closely developments related to the Agreement on Fisheries Subsidies, Trade and the Environment and Environmental Sustainability.

### **ii. Development of Green Industries**

Among the many areas of green industries, those bearing the greatest potential for Trinidad and Tobago include the following: green renewable energy (e.g. solar panel assembly), which provides a foundation and infrastructure to other sectors; the greening of traditional sectors such as agriculture and tourism; and the development of other ‘new’ green activities and services, including creative industries and niche agriculture such as higher value added cocoa production. The GORTT will seek to develop a green industrial value chain that would include financing, marketing, regulation and R&D, among other factors.

The MTI is undertaking research on the following to aid in the development of green industries:

- Study on Regional Value Chains for the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturing Sector; and
- Study on Strengthening Sectoral Linkages.

### **iii. Trinidad and Tobago Yachting Policy 2017-2021**

*The Grant Facility for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) in the Yachting Sector*  
In February 2022, Cabinet approved the establishment of a Grant Fund Facility for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in the Yachting Sector, in the amount of TT\$10 million. The Facility was developed for MSEs involved in services related to ship repair and maintenance including the provision of fiberglass work, welding, woodwork, upholstery services, sail making, electronics and electrical work, painting and rigging, hospitality services, travel agency services and yacht brokerage. To access this one-time cash Grant, an applicant is required to be a national of Trinidad and Tobago and provide evidence of experience in the Yachting sector. Micro businesses are eligible for a cash grant of up to TT\$20,000 to cover 100% of business costs, and Small businesses are eligible for a cash grant of up to TT\$50,000 to cover 75% to 100% of selected business costs.



**Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations  
Committee Examination of the implementation of the 2021 Budget  
with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.**

**FISCAL 2023**

i. Trinidad and Tobago Trade Policy(TTTP) 2019-2023

The Trade Policy is set to expire in 2023 and the International Trade Centre of the WTO has been approached to provide assistance in the development of T&T's new and updated Trade Policy. The new Policy will address key issues related to Green Economies and Trade and Environmental Sustainability.

In making the way through the transition to the new Trade Policy, the current Trade Policy will continue to address the development of Green Industries and matters related to trade and the environment through the following:

1. Conduct a comprehensive review of environment policy and legislation, and related standards, with a view to updating them in order to fill gaps and bring them in line with international best practices and policies
2. Establish a clear policy on environment-friendly trade to provide the basis on which relevant agencies (such as the EMA and the TTBS) can intervene with appropriate standards and monitoring
3. Through the Ministry of Trade and Industry work closely with the Ministry of Public Utilities and the private sector to design and implement appropriate programmes geared at enhancing energy efficiency across industries with a view to achieving 10% energy saving
4. Update the legal framework addressing trade and the environment and build institutional capacity to monitor the impact of trade on the environment and motivate and enforce compliance
5. Develop an implementation plan for the updated legislation and regulations to be integrated into the strategic plans of respective and relevant implementing institutions
6. Strengthen the Environmental Commission, to facilitate speedy appeals of trade-related decisions made by the EMA
7. Monitor the country's carbon footprint, conduct a detailed assessment of the country's potential for development of wind and solar energy, design and implement a greenhouse gas mitigation action plan
8. Provide incentives for investment in renewable energy power plants, for use of cleaner technology in the Industrial sector, and for use of alternative fuels and energy sources in the Transportation sector
9. Introduce awareness-building programmes to increase public and business stakeholder appreciation of the environmental issues related to trade
10. Increase the pace of adjustment away from the technologies of production and consumption used in the international economy that produces global warming and climate change and that otherwise damage the environment
11. Utilize the GORTT's public procurement policy, including e-Procurement, to promote the production and trade of environmentally friendly goods and services

## **Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee Examination of the implementation of the 2021 Budget with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.**

### **ii. Trinidad and Tobago Yachting Policy**

The Grant Facility was launched in March 2022. During the period March 14, 2022 to April 3, 2023, the MTI received 84 submissions to access the Grant. Of the 84, 66 were approved for payment under the Facility, totalling approximately TT\$1,713,443. With the opening of the borders in 2021 and the implementation of the Grant Facility, yacht arrivals amounted to approximately 720 during the period July 2021 – April 2023.

#### ***The Single Harmonized Form***

In consultation with stakeholders, the MTI has been informed that the entry and departure procedures for pleasure crafts remain a deterrent in positioning Trinidad and Tobago as an attractive destination. At present the entry procedures require persons to manually submit approximately 20 forms, after waiting long hours for Health Clearance as there are limited Public Health Inspectors who currently execute these duties in the absence of an established Port Health Unit. Additionally, if a cruiser arrives before 8 a.m. or after 4 p.m., overtime fees are required.

By Minute No. 1520 of September 29, 2016, Cabinet agreed, *inter alia*, to the introduction of a Single Harmonized Form (SHF) and amendment to the relevant legislation to give effect to the SHF. The implementation of the SHF is envisaged to streamline the entry and departure procedures for pleasure crafts. In July 2020, the amendments to effect the SHF for the entry and departure of pleasure craft were passed in the Parliament through the Miscellaneous Amendment (No. 2) Bill 2020.

Notably, there was agreement among the stakeholders to implement the SHF by 1 May 2022, with the development and implementation of an electronic version to follow by 1 January 2023. In order to operationalize the SHF, there has been ongoing engagement by the MTI with various ministries and agencies to implement the SHF. These include the Ministry of National Security (Immigration Division), the Ministry of Finance (Customs and Excise Division), the Ministry of Works and Transport (Maritime Services Division), the Ministry of Health (Port Health Division) and the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries (Animal Production and Health Division, Wildlife Section - Forestry Division and Plant Quarantine Section - Research Division).

On account of legislative and logistical challenges expressed by the Customs and Excise Division (CED) and the Immigration Division (ID), as well as other concerns highlighted by the Port Health Division (PHD) of the Ministry of Health, implementation of the SHF has not yet been achieved.

#### ***SailClear System***

The CED has commenced exploratory work on digitizing the entry and departure clearance processes for cruisers. Consultation initiated by the CED, involved the input of various stakeholders on the way forward, including a proposal for the implementation of an online Border Clearance System, similar to what is currently used by other countries in the region. Some of the border clearance systems analysed for possible use in Trinidad and Tobago for the Yachting sector include the SailClear

## **Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee Examination of the implementation of the 2021 Budget with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.**

system, which is currently available for use in thirty-nine (39) countries and the eSeaClear system, which is currently available for use in fourteen (14) countries.

A meeting was held between the MTI and the Customs and Excise Division (CED) on February 22, 2023, to discuss the implementation of SailClear, the most suitable online border clearance system for use in Trinidad and Tobago by the Yachting sector. The CED, under whose remit this falls, informed the MTI that consultations will be held with other border agencies including the Ministry of Health and the Immigration Division, to explore the possibility and logistics for operationalizing SailClear in Trinidad and Tobago.

On April 11, 2023, the CED met with the service provider of SailClear, Caribbean Customs Law Enforcement Council (CCLEC), and has advised that SailClear is designed to be processed by all necessary border agencies and can be customised to meet the legislative requirements of Trinidad and Tobago. Notably, the MTI was invited by the CED to participate in a meeting with CCLEC, scheduled to take place on May 10, 2023, to determine how the SHF may be incorporated into the SailClear Electronic System.

In light of the foregoing, it is envisaged that the relevant border agencies would collaborate towards the implementation of SailClear to facilitate and streamline the arrival and departure procedures for pleasure crafts entering and leaving Trinidad and Tobago. This digital platform is urgently required to ensure that the bureaucratic procedures currently in use are streamlined and harmonized with best practices, similar to what is already in use by regional competitors such as Antigua and Barbuda, The Bahamas and Grenada. Once the SHF is amended and the process for operationalization is finalized, it will be maintained for use in the event of electronic or technical challenges with the digital/automated system.

### ***Marketing and Promotion Campaigns***

To promote the local Yachting sector and attract foreign pleasure crafts to Trinidad and Tobago, the MTI has pursued an aggressive campaign to market and promote this country as a premier yachting destination, in accordance with the Yachting Policy. This promotional plan is the “Sail, Service, Stay” International Awareness Campaign that entails monthly advertisement placements in international yachting and maritime magazines. The advertisement has been placed and featured in global publications such as “Caribbean Compass,” “All At Sea,” “Yachts and Yachting,” and “SAIL,” and marketing efforts have been expanded to airline in-flight magazines such as Caribbean Beat, High Life and Holland Herald. In fiscal 2024, the Campaign is expected to include articles, promotional videos, updated flyers and a docu-series on the Yachting sector.

### **iii. National Quality Policy**

Physical Infrastructure Development, Capacity Building and Organizational Strengthening (Component 3):

## **Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee Examination of the implementation of the 2021 Budget with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.**

### *Develop and Implement a Metrology and Testing Lab Capacity Development Strategy and Plan*

The development of a National Laboratory Policy is being pursued to address gaps in the National Laboratory Infrastructure. The TTBS finalized the Terms of Reference (TOR) for the consultant and the Request for Proposal was also developed.

#### *Design and Implement an Accreditation Programme for Public Laboratories*

The TTBS, on behalf of the MTI, is currently implementing the “Programme for the Accreditation of Public Laboratories” This Programme is designed to assist local laboratories with achieving the appropriate accreditation.

- **Project Call 1** - The Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) and National Petroleum (NP) laboratories were successful in their accreditation assessment. In November 2022, National Petroleum (NP) was awarded accreditation by the Laboratory Accreditation Committee (LAC) and the IMA's accreditation was granted in December 2022.
- **Project Call 2** – Three (3) labs were selected for Project Call 2. Phoenix Park Gas Processors Limited (PPGPL), Eastern regional Health Authority (ERHA) and the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA). The three (3) labs completed their pre-assessments and the consultants are assisting the labs with the development of their quality management systems.

### *Developing an SME/Suppliers capacity building programme*

This project is geared towards building the capacity of MSME's to deliver quality goods and services. The TTBS will be partnering with the National Entrepreneurship Development Company (NEDCO) to implement this project.

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with NEDCO was signed on September 30 2022.
- The TTBS and NEDCO met in December 2022 to sign the amendments to the MOU and review the survey instrument to be used in prioritizing the standards to be considered
- The TOR was developed for the procurement of the consultant and is currently being reviewed by the TTBS and NEDCO.
- The review of the survey is to be completed by the end of April 2023 and it is expected to be launched in May 2023.

### *Establishment of the Trinidad and Tobago Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (TTASCA)*

Establishment of the TTASCA is being pursued to facilitate local labs (including those involved in food, medical and product testing) in becoming internationally accredited. These labs would then have the competence to provide internationally recognized results.

## **Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee Examination of the implementation of the 2021 Budget with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.**

- The recommendations for the draft TTASCA Bill were reviewed and approved by the Minister of Trade and Industry.
- A revised version of the Bill was submitted to the CPC for further review and amendments in March 2023.

Please note that these projects are ongoing from fiscal year 2022/2023.

- **The MTI should submit to Parliament by May 31, 2023, the activities undertaken to ensure stakeholder awareness and adequate compliance with domestic laws, international treaties and conventions and the associated regulations.**

Developing the Enabling Quality Culture and Proactive Environment (Component 4)

*Project 1: The Development and Implementation of a National Quality Awareness Strategy*

*Project 2: Establishing a Quality Intelligence Sensitization Programme for the Private Sector*

These two (2) Projects is being implemented through the project - *Building a National Quality Culture in Trinidad and Tobago*.

- Strategic PR Solution was awarded the contract for the Awareness and Sensitization Programme. The TTBS met with Strategic PR Solution on February 15 and February 22 2023 to review the national survey and business survey instruments. The in-person national survey is currently being conducted and is expected to be completed at the end of May 2023. Additionally, the online survey is also being conducted and is expected to be completed at the end May 2023.
- The TTBS met with Strategic PR Solution on February 15 and February 22 2023 to review the national survey and business survey instruments. The in-person national survey is currently being conducted and is expected to be completed at the end of May 2023. Additionally, the online survey is also being conducted and is expected to be completed at the end May 2023.
- The TTBS met with Strategic PR Solution on February 15 and February 22 2023 to review the national survey and business survey instruments. The in-person national survey is currently being conducted and is expected to be completed at the end of May 2023. Additionally, the online survey is also being conducted and is expected to be completed at the end May 2023.

*Project 3: Creating and Implementing an Awareness Programme to promote NQI in the realization of the Green Economy Strategies*

- The TTBS participated in the 4th CABUREK-QI4CE (“Capacity Building in Technical and Scientific Organisations Using Regional Knowledge and

## **Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee Examination of the implementation of the 2021 Budget with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.**

Experience” Project) Workshop (Online) from March 27 - 31, 2023. The TTBS was assigned to Working Group 1 – Plastics. The National work plans for the CABUREK Circular Economy project were discussed and reviewed and are to be updated further, which will support some of the initiatives of Project 3.

- As part of this project a Feasibility Study for the Biodegradable Food Packaging Sector will be conducted. A consultant will be procured to conduct the study. The Terms of Reference for the procurement of a consultant to conduct a Feasibility Study for the Biodegradable Food Packaging Sector is currently being developed by the TTBS and is expected to go out for publication in May 2023.

### **3. Achievement of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) #9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**

The SDG#9 seeks to build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation. The Committee queried the plans of the MTI in leading T&T on the path to achieving this goal. The MTI indicated that the GORTT intends to modernize transport infrastructure by improving both the air and sea bridges and the bus rapid transit system. As part of this, the GORTT intends to embark on completing several mega infrastructural projects throughout the country within the next two (2) years. These projects include:

- the completion of the extension of the Solomon Hochoy Highway;
- the redevelopment of Skinner Park and San Fernando Waterfront;
- the implementation of Port of Spain Re-development Programme;
- the Churchill Roosevelt Highway extension; and
- the Valencia to Toco Expansion Project and the Tobago Airport Expansion Project.

The MTI stated that resilient infrastructure was necessary to facilitate trade, enable business, connect workers to industry, create new opportunities for innovation and the taking into account of environmental sustainability.

#### **Recommendations:**

- Regarding the aim of achieving SDG#9, the MTI should submit to Parliament by May 31, 2023:
  - The progress made in modernising the transport infrastructure via both the air and sea bridges and bus transit system in T&T;
  - The current status of each infrastructural project listed above;
  - The MTI's plans, programs and projects intended to foster innovation and support research and domestic technological development to make progress towards achieving SDG#9; and
  - The future steps that will be undertaken to ensure the achievement of each target under SDG#9.



## **Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee Examination of the implementation of the 2021 Budget with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.**

**The MTI should also submit to Parliament by May 31, 2023 the role of the Ministry of Works and Transport and other Ministries in making progress towards achieving SDG#9.**

### **Recommendations for the Ninth PAAC - MTI's Response to Question 3:**

- The progress made in modernising the transport infrastructure via both the air and sea bridges and bus transit system in T&T;**

Whilst resilient infrastructure including air and sea bridges and roadways are necessary to facilitate trade, enable business, connect workers to industry and create new opportunities for innovation, it should be noted that the developmental of physical infrastructure such as the following does not fall within the remit of the Ministry of Trade and Industry but rather the Ministry of Works and Transport:

- the completion of the extension of the Solomon Hochoy Highway;
- the redevelopment of Skinner Park and San Fernando Waterfront;
- the implementation of Port of Spain Re-development Programme;
- the Churchill Roosevelt Highway extension; and
- the Valencia to Toco Expansion Project and the Tobago Airport Expansion Project.

- The current status of each infrastructural project listed above;**

Not applicable

- The MTI's plans, programs and projects intended to foster innovation and support research and domestic technological development to make progress towards achieving SDG#9**

The work of the Ministry is focused on SDG#8 *“Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”* which includes the following programmes which support research technological development:

#### **i. Single Electronic Window**

The Single Electronic Window (TTBizLink) is a secure, neutral and user-friendly IT platform which facilitates the delivery of various trade and business related service online/ electronically from the “front-end” ie end-users/applicants to the “back-end” i.e. approvers which can be accessed 24/7 from anywhere in the world.

**Ninth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations  
Committee Examination of the implementation of the 2021 Budget  
with emphasis on the “Green Economy”.**

ii. Export Booster Initiative

The Export Booster Initiative (EBI) is designed to assist the development and growth of the non-energy manufacturing sector under three (3) broad strategic areas namely, Export Promotion, Capacity Building and Institutional Strengthening. The Export Booster Initiative is being advanced by the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association, with aim of enhancing market access for SMEs. Envisioning export value of manufactured goods will double by 2024.

iii. The Grant Fund Facility

The Grant Fund Facility (GFF) provides companies with financing to improve their productivity and competitiveness, create product diversification into more innovative and high-value products, and increase production that will enable increased exports. The Grant Fund Facility is administered by ExporTT, where businesses can access individual grant from the fund up to a maximum of TT\$250,000 increased to TT\$340,000 per beneficiary to finance 50% of the cost of acquisition. The Facility focuses on eight (8) designated sectors, where new opportunities become available to SMEs to encourage export of high value added products.

**- The future steps that will be undertaken to ensure the achievement of each target under SDG#9.**

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is committed to the achievement of SDG#9 which aims to *“Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation”*. This will be accomplished through the aforementioned programmes and projects as the MTI work as an innovative team, championing business growth, trade and investment for enhanced global competitiveness and promoting consumer interests for improved well-being.