



OPM

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QUARTERLY

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Prime Minister Rowley **SEALS THE DEAL**

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Message from

Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley

Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

At the start of each year many of us commit to making significant adjustments to our lifestyles. We want to eat healthier, exercise more, be more positive in our outlook or simply learn to take life's challenges in stride. Many of us also assess where we are and make an extra effort to get where we want to be during the course of the year.

Government opened the year with a Cabinet Retreat at the Diplomatic Centre to do just that - assess where we are and determine how we should be moving forward. The retreat included non-Cabinet Ministers and brought together Ministers and their Permanent Secretaries, to gauge how successfully the Government's Strategic Development Plan was being implemented at the level of the Ministries.

I wish to commend all members of the OPM staff who contributed to making this very important retreat a success.

As a nation we have started the New Year with some challenges, in particular the area of crime, but this Government continues to utilize every option available to us to ensure that citizens are safe and secure. We have also witnessed some very positive developments. As you know, in February the Tax Information Exchange Agreements Bill 2016 was passed thereby enabling our country to become compliant with the United States' Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA).

In March, Trinidad and Tobago joined with countries worldwide in celebrating the many accomplishments of our women and girls on International Women's Day. Once again I take this opportunity to congratulate the women of OPM for their sterling contribution not only to this organization but also to our country.

These are some of the topics which you will read more about in this edition of the OPM Quarterly and I trust that you will continue to find our newsletter informative and beneficial.

I look forward to 2017 as another productive year for the OPM and for the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

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





greetings from the
**PERMANENT
SECRETARY**

My Dear Colleagues,

As we approach the month of May I sincerely hope that you are moving towards the accomplishment of the resolutions and goals you may have set this year. At the Office of the Prime Minister we are continuing with plans to streamline and improve the efficiency of the organisation.

The OPM provides professional administrative support to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. The organisation is responsible for the coordination and implementation of decisions taken by the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, in order to ensure and promote the effective and efficient operation of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago.

I am pleased to announce that the OPM's Strategic Plan for 2017-2021 was approved by the Cabinet. This plan was created collaboratively with senior executive officers and a cross section of junior officers.

One of the critical roles of the Prime Minister is to ensure that the plans presented by the Ministers reflect the priorities of the whole Government and can be delivered within budget.

The strategic plan therefore provides the Prime Minister with a structure to review the key commitments of the Government Policy Framework, the delivery of major public services by key ministries and to address issues which require ministries and other state agencies to work together to achieve success.

In finalising the plan our Mission Statement was fine-tuned, however our Vision Statement remains the same.

Our Vision Statement

To be the Hallmark of Excellence in the Public Service.

Our Mission Statement

We provide professional coordination, administrative, and other support services to the Prime Minister in executing his constitutional responsibilities to Trinidad and Tobago.

Our Core Values

Integrity, Accountability, Transparency, Equity,
Professionalism, Empathy, Commitment, Confidentiality
and Diversity.

Members of staff were instrumental in developing these core values and are expected to incorporate them into their daily duties as we work together to make the Office of the Prime Minister the premiere organisation within the Public Service.

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

a word from our
EDITOR



In this issue of the OPM Quarterly we give you some insight into the Cabinet retreat which took place at the start of year, discuss some of the outcomes of the 28th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held in Georgetown, Guyana and inform you about the major energy deals finalised by the Prime Minister on his recent trip to Houston, Texas.

I am also tremendously pleased to advise you that the official website of the Office of the Prime Minister is live! Check out www.opm.gov.tt and keep updated on matters related to the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. You can access the OPM Facebook and Twitter streams, our YouTube channel and Instagram from the OPM website.

If you've missed any issue of our newsletter, they are all available on the website. Vacancies in the OPM are also posted there.

The OPM Report complements our website and newsletter. It is a television series designed to highlight the initiatives which are being undertaken by the Government to improve the quality of life for all citizens, and ultimately keep Trinidad and Tobago on the path of sustainable development.

Whether you prefer to receive your news via the traditional or new media channels, there are opportunities for you to keep informed on Government policies, projects and programmes. Keeping the population informed about Government's activities aid in perpetuating integrity, accountability and transparency all of which are fundamental to good governance.

Here's hoping you enjoy reading the OPM Quarterly and should you wish to provide us with feedback contact the Public Information and Communications Unit at 622- 1625 ext: 4043 or email opmnews@gov.tt

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



PM Demands Good Corporate Governance

“Today I want us to accept as posited that, as a general rule, poor governance always guarantees poor performance.”

This according to the Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley as he delivered the feature address at the Ministry of Finance’s Annual State Boards Corporate Governance Seminar at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Wednesday 18th January, 2017.

During his address, Prime Minister Rowley emphasised that State-owned Enterprises (SOE) have a critical role to play in the supply of economic goods and services in Trinidad and Tobago and must do so in an efficient and effective manner that will redound to the benefit of the entire nation.

Above:

Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, during his feature address at the Ministry of Finance’s Annual State Boards Corporate Governance Seminar at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

Right:

The Audience at the Seminar





Prime Minister Rowley affirmed the Government's commitment to addressing the performance issues of all State enterprises, defaulting and otherwise, and highlighted the need to re-examine corporate governance structures relating to the state sector. Not only are appropriate laws, regulations and codes needed, but attitudinal changes are critical to addressing the challenges faced by the sector.

Additionally, the Prime Minister stressed that the timely submission of financial reports (whether audited or unaudited) is an uncompromising demand going forward. Proper oversight and reporting as well as eliminating opportunities for waste, abuse and corruption is necessary.

The Prime Minister concluded by reiterating the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's commitment to making the state enterprise sector more efficient and more effective. He also referenced several pieces of legislation and other initiatives that seek to raise the performance of the state enterprise sector.

Below:

The Honourable Minister of Finance Colm Imbert delivers the opening remarks at the Ministry's Annual State Boards Corporate Governance Seminar at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.





Members of Cabinet at the morning session

CABINET RETREAT KICKS OFF GOVERNMENT'S 'YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION'

On Tuesday 3rd January 2017, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley led his Cabinet and other non-Cabinet members of Government in a two-day retreat focused on the country's on-going development programme, at the Diplomatic Centre, La Fantasie, St. Ann's. Also attending the retreat were the Permanent Secretaries assigned to the various Government Ministries.

Speaking at the joint Ministers/Permanent Secretaries session, the Prime Minister highlighted the need for Ministers and Permanent Secretaries to work together to ensure that Government's policies and programmes are successfully implemented. In particular, Prime Minister Rowley noted that ministries must not falter in their delivery of service to the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago, notwithstanding the country's current economic circumstances.

The Prime Minister also indicated that 2017 is the year for corrective decisions and measures to be taken by the Government with specific regard to national programmes and also with reference to the accountability of State Enterprises.

Head of the Public Service and Permanent Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Sandra Jones, in her remarks, stated that the Board of Permanent Secretaries remained committed to working closely with all Ministers to assist in moving the Government's transformation agenda forward and delivering on the promises made to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

The retreat ended on Wednesday 4th January 2017.



Below:

The Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Head of the Public Service, Mrs. Sandra Jones (left), Press Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister, Ms. Arlene Gorin-George, (centre) and Executive Assistant to the Permanent Secretary, Ms. Racine Bowman (right), at the beginning of this morning's session for Permanent Secretaries.



Below:

Permanent Secretaries participating in the opening session.





Prime Minister Celebrates *International Women's Day*

P Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley engaged in discussions with leading advocates for the rights of women and girls during a breakfast meeting at the Diplomatic Centre, La Fantasie, St. Ann's.

The event was held on March 8th 2017, in celebration of International Women's Day.

Attendees spent the morning in an open forum where a wide range of relevant issues were examined. The gathering provided an opportunity to share concerns, experiences and make suggestions on the ways the Government can assist in the advancement of women.

The Prime Minister spoke about the close relationship he shared with his grandmother and how her death impacted his life. In turn many attendees paid tribute to the women who have dedicated their lives to activism in Trinidad and Tobago. The Prime Minister also used the event to reiterate his Government's commitment to eradicating the many challenges facing women and girls.

While Government currently meets with civil society groups on a quarterly basis, the Prime Minister expressed his willingness to strengthen and expand this partnership.

In her welcome address, Folade Mutota, Executive Director, Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD), commended the Prime Minister for keeping his promise to tackle the issue of child marriage.

Mutota said, "We need timely legislation. We are grateful for the legislation on child marriage. We met with you in March and by January the following year, the legislation was in Parliament."

Minister of Planning and Development, the Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Gender and Child Affairs, the Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy also attended the event.

Dr. Rowley indicated that he placed Gender and Child Affairs within his office because it has a key role to play in protecting and supporting vulnerable groups within the society and commended Webster-Roy for her willingness to engage civil society and her commitment to consensus building.



Above:
Executive Director, Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD), Folade Mutota, addresses the gathering at the breakfast meeting with the Prime Minister.

Left:
Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley greets author and activist, Dr. Merle Hodge, at a breakfast forum held in celebration of International Women's Day at the Diplomatic Centre, La Fantasie, St. Ann's.

Top:
Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley stands with civil society leaders, Government Ministers and officials who celebrated International Women's Day 2017 at a breakfast forum held at the Diplomatic Centre, La Fantasie, St. Ann's.



Prime Minister, the Honourable Dr. Keith Rowley and Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs the Honourable Dennis Moses at the opening session of the 28th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)

ICT AND TOURISM TAKE CENTRE STAGE AT CARICOM MEETING

P rime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley led the Trinidad and Tobago delegation to the two-day conference of the 28th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), from the 16th - 17th February 2017, Georgetown, Guyana.

The conference focused on issues such as regional security, tourism, the Caribbean Single Market Economy (CSME), the ratification of decisions from the 37th Regular Meeting Conference (July 2016, Guyana), Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for Development and other regional matters.

CARICOM leaders approved a draft roadmap for the region's single Information and Communications Technology (ICT) space. This single ICT space will allow for harmonised policies, legislation, regulations and technical standards; create affordable networks and universal access; positively affect roaming rates across the region; and address spectrum

and broadband matters. This was identified as critical to accelerating the implementation of the CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME) and will be a driving force for social and economic development in the region.

Heads of Government also pledged their support for the establishment of an Interim Tourism Working Group comprising members of the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO), the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) and the Caribbean Tourism Development Company (CTDC). This group will prepare a pilot, region-wide public relations and marketing initiative and include mechanisms for financing by the public and private sector.

CARICOM leaders also received an update on the ongoing border dispute between the Cooperative Republic of Guyana and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and expressed support for the critical role of the Organization of American States (OAS) in resolving the dispute arising from Guatemala's claims on Belize.



Left:
Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley greets President of Guyana, His Excellency Brigadier (Ret'd) David A. Granger on the second and final day of the 28th Inter-Sessional meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) in Georgetown, Guyana.

Below:
From left to right: Prime Minister of Dominica Dr. the Honourable Roosevelt Skerrit, Prime Minister Gaston Browne of Antigua and Barbuda and Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley attending the first day of the 28th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of Government of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM)



Above:
From left to right: Web Content Specialist, Office of the Prime Minister; Ms. Anita Sylvester, Press Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister; Ms. Arlene Gorin-George, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, the Honourable Dennis Moses, Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, and Protocol Officer, Office of the Prime Minister, Kirk Francois.

Right:
Prime Minister, the Honourable Dr. Keith Rowley speaks with (centre) Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West Indies, Sir Hilary Beckles, (Cave Hill) and Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda, the Honourable Gaston Browne.

On the final day, leaders were informed that preparations were well underway for the 13th edition of the Caribbean Festival of Arts (CARIFESTA), which will be hosted in Barbados from 17th – 27th August 2017. Trinidad and Tobago is scheduled to host CARIFESTA in 2019.

Prime Minister Rowley and his delegation returned to Trinidad and Tobago on Saturday 18th February, 2017.

Above:
The opening session of the conference



TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO AND CUBA FORGE CLOSER CULTURAL TIES

Success Laventille Secondary School and its steel orchestra, Success Stars Pan Sounds, hosted an official welcome ceremony for El Conjunto Folklórico Nacional de Cuba, a 55-year-old prestigious company that was here in Trinidad and Tobago for an educational and cultural reciprocal visit.

Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley attended

Below:

The Success Laventille Secondary School's steel orchestra, Success Stars Pan Sounds entertain guests at the welcome ceremony.

the welcome reception which was held at the school's auditorium, March 5, 2017.

The visiting Cuban group participated in a number of dance and percussion workshops for Best Village community groups, tertiary and secondary school students during their stay.

Right:

Sunil Ramnath of the Shiv Shakti Dancers performs for guests.





Above:
Members of the El Conjunto Folklórico Nacional de Cuba during an impromptu performance for guests

Right:
Minister of Public Utilities and Member of Parliament for Laventille West, Fitzgerald Hinds, Cuban Ambassador, His Excellency Guillermo Vazquez Moreno, Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley and Principal of Success Laventille Secondary School, Hamida Baksh view the proceedings at the welcome ceremony.



Top:
Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley greets Cuban Ambassador, His Excellency Guillermo Vazquez Moreno.



Prime Minister Rowley Brokers Energy Deals in Houston

***P** rime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley negotiated and closed several critical energy deals on his recent trip to Houston in March.*

The Prime Minister's three day visit began on March 29 and included meetings with four energy companies – BP, Shell, Exxon Mobil and EOG Resources.

He was accompanied by Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and Minister in the Office of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, the Honourable Stuart Young.

Here are some of the outcomes from the successful meetings.

BP to Invest US Billions in TT over next five Years

BP will invest USD five billion in Trinidad and Tobago over the next five years.

This was just one of the announcements following a high-level meeting on March 29, 2017 between the Prime Minister and senior BP executives. During the talks, negotiations

that have been on-going for months were brought closer to finalisation.

At the meeting it was determined that the final agreement between the National Gas Company and BP for Angelin will be executed shortly and that this project will be kept on schedule.



The parties discussed the investment by BP of between USD\$5-6 billion in Trinidad and Tobago over the next five years, with BP committing to further exploration and production. There was also discussion with respect to Atlantic LNG.

Another matter raised at the meeting was the settlement of long outstanding Royalty Gas positions. The parties also discussed the future of the hydrocarbon industry in Trinidad and Tobago and the continuation of the relationship between Trinidad and Tobago and BP.

BP Upstream Chief Executive Bernard Looney, BP Chief Operating Officer Andy Hopwood and bptt Regional President Norman Christie represented the company at the meeting.

Bright Future for Shell in TT

The Prime Minister spent March 30, 2017 in several meetings with senior members of the Shell executive team.

The energy company, which has a long history of operation in Trinidad and Tobago, invited the Prime Minister and Minister Stuart Young to its offices for detailed discussions on various initiatives.

The full-day visit began with a tour of Shell's Westhollow Technology Center in Houston. In the afternoon the Prime Minister met with Maarten Wetselaar, Shell's Director for Integrated Gas and New Energies, De La Rey Venter,

Executive Vice President Integrated Gas and Derek Hudson, Vice President, Trinidad and Tobago.

During the meeting the Prime Minister received a presentation on Shell's Strategic Vision for its business in Trinidad and Tobago and secured a commitment from the company to invest billions over the next four years.

Shell also updated the Government on the status of a number of initiatives which are at various stages of the developmental and project life cycle as they reaffirm the company as a major player in the local energy industry.

It was noted that Shell and the Government of Trinidad and Tobago are aligned on plans for bringing cross-border gas from Venezuela into the Trinidad and Tobago market to meet strong demand in the petrochemical sector.

The Prime Minister expressed his confidence in the energy company's ability to successfully execute its expansion. He requested that the company place greater emphasis on hiring and training local qualified personnel to increase the employment of Trinidad and Tobago nationals throughout the company as it is important to strike the right balance between local and expatriate employment. Shell agreed to this request.

Moreover, Prime Minister Rowley assured Shell that his Government will do what is necessary within the laws of Trinidad and Tobago to provide accelerated approvals for its work program and that he in turn expected Shell to deliver in the shortest time possible.

One of the programs which was the subject of detailed discussions and agreement was the Starfish project which will see new developmental objectives commencing in the next quarter of 2017.

In 2016, Shell re-entered the local market with its acquisition of the BG Group. This signifies the company's confidence in the opportunities available in our energy industry.

Shell is excited to play a leading role in unlocking Trinidad and Tobago's future oil and gas potential and building a stronger competitive position in the country.

EOG to Begin Drilling

On his final day of official meetings with energy companies on March 31, 2017, the Prime Minister met with Chairman and CEO of EOG Resources William Thomas at EOG Resources Heritage Plaza.

The meeting resulted in an agreement between Trinidad and Tobago and EOG on future gas. Consequently Thomas gave immediate instructions that drilling commence on a well that was previously on standby. He also gave the go ahead for the commencement of additional significant seismic work.

The Prime Minister urged the company to move with alacrity to increase gas production and address the current shortage issue. EOG responded very positively to this and the parties agreed that conversations would continue towards increased exploration and production.

This will go a long way towards realising the Prime Minister's vision of cementing Trinidad and Tobago's continued role as a place for investment in the hydrocarbon industry.

EOG Resources has been operating in Trinidad and Tobago for 25 years and has expressed a keen interest in expanding operations and increasing their investment here.

On that same day Prime Minister Rowley and Minister Stuart Young also met with senior executives from Exxon Mobil.

The company is responsible for leading the discoveries of substantial oil reserves in Guyana over the last two years.

Prime Minister Rowley noted in the meeting that Trinidad and Tobago is ideally positioned to play a key role in assisting with Guyana's hydrocarbon future. He said, "Our location, refinery, deep water harbours, access to markets and expertise in the energy sector all make us the best candidate for partnership with our neighbour."

The Exxon Mobil team agreed to visit Trinidad and Tobago and assess for themselves our readiness to partner with Guyana.

Representing Exxon Mobil at the meeting were Mike Kunzig Manager, Upstream Production Operations, Doug Kerins Commercial Advisor, Refining and Supply, Lisa Waters Vice President, Americas Projects, Development, Steve Blume Manager, Global Business Development, Refining and Supply and Mike Kelly Upstream Integration Executive, Refining and Supply.





EMPOWERING WOMEN

The Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs) led the Government delegation to the 61st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 61) held from 13th to 24th March 2017, at the headquarters of the United Nations, New York. The Trinidad and Tobago delegation also included the Director of Gender Affairs, Mrs. Antoinette Jack-Martin and Ms. Gia Gaspard-Taylor, President of the Network of Rural Producers of Trinidad and Tobago.

Minister Webster-Roy presented the country statement in relation to the theme, 'Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work' which hailed the increased participation of women in the political sphere and other areas of decision making, as evidenced by the thirteen female elected Members of Parliament in the current Government. She further highlighted Government's implementation of various policies and laws at the national level aimed at engendering social change and fostering gender equality. The Honourable Minister also expressed the Government's unequivocal obligation to working with Member States to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women as a critical component of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

This year's session also saw a large contingent of NGO representatives from the Trinidad and Tobago conference. A total of 17 representatives from various NGOs such as the Network of NGOs Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement Women, Organization for Abused and Battered Individuals

(OABI), Association of Female Executives Trinidad and Tobago (AFETT) and the National Muslim Organization of Trinidad and Tobago were present and participated in various side events.

The Minister also participated in a number of ministerial round table discussions namely:

- Informal and non-standard work and the policies that effectively support women's empowerment.
- My Sister's Health Watch: The Protection of Women's Health through Economic Empowerment.
- Technology changing the world of work: How can technology and innovation be harnessed to accelerate women's economic empowerment?

The Minister extended her heartfelt thanks to the staff of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to the United Nations and Her Excellency Ambassador Penelope Beckles, Permanent Representative for their support.

The Office of the Prime Minister will continue the drive to advocate for economic empowerment of all citizens by building awareness and promoting strategies to further enhance women's economic rights and freedom.



Government to Recover Costs from Victoria Keyes

The Victoria Keyes Development in Diego Martin was formally opened on Saturday 11th February 2017. In 2005, the Victoria Keyes Development was started in accordance with the Government's philosophy to provide affordable and accessible housing for low and middle-income earners. However, under the previous administration, substantial changes were made to the development which placed the project out of the reach of those for whom it was originally intended. On assuming office, this Government decided to offer the units for sale on the open market so as to recover a significant portion of the money expended on the project. These funds will

be used to complete housing that targets low and middle income earners.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago remains committed to the three pillars of its housing policy: Affordability - building quality homes at a cost which would be affordable for low to middle income earners; Accessibility - constructing homes in high demand areas at an affordable cost; and Improving quality of living - provision of security of tenure, grants for home improvement and community upgrades.



Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley delivers the feature address at the official opening of the Victoria Keyes Development.



Minister of Housing, Randall Mitchell is pictured here with from left Managing Director of HDC, Brent Lyons, Chairman of HDC, Newman George and Chris Chanona of Kee Chanona Limited



Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley and Chairman of HDC Newman George tour the Victoria Keyes Development.



Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley delivers the feature address at the Regional Standardization Forum for Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG)



Participants of the Regional Standardization Forum for Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG).

BRIDGING THE STANDARDIZATION GAP

On Monday 6th March 2017, Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, delivered the feature address at the Regional Standardization Forum for Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG) at the Office of the Parliament, International Waterfront Centre, Port of Spain.

The forum, hosted by the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT), the first to be held in Latin America and the Caribbean, facilitated the discussion of various standardization topics under discussion at ITU-T and highlighted activities related to Bridging the Standardization Gap (BSG) Programme.

In his feature address, the Prime Minister noted that the CARICOM shares the goals of the BSG as a draft roadmap

for the region’s single Information and Communications Technology (ICT) space was recently approved during the 28th Inter-Sessional Meeting of the Conference of CARICOM Heads of Government recently held in Guyana.

The Prime Minister emphasised that the ICT sector is critical to our national development and is expected to enhance the quality of life of our people. Furthermore, he highlighted the Government’s efforts to ensure the full proclamation of e-legislation with supporting rules and regulations in “the not too distant future” and assured that the Government’s initiative to provide free Wi-Fi access to the public, TT Wi-Fi, was well underway.

PETROTRIN UNDER REVIEW

Petrotrin remains one of the country's most important State enterprises. Our economy is tied to the fate of the company.

A Cabinet decision was made on February 23rd 2017 to review operations at the energy company in light of falling revenues, allegations of mismanagement and decreasing oil prices worldwide.

To this end, Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley presented instruments of appointment to a seven-member committee tasked with conducting a review of the operations at Petrotrin.

The committee will make recommendations for restructuring of the company and its first report is scheduled to be submitted on June 1st 2017.

Members of the committee are as follows:

Mr. Selwyn Lashley, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy & Energy Affairs (Chairman); Professor Chandrabhan Sharma (Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, University of the West Indies), Ms. Helen Drayton (former Independent Senator), Mr. Robert Riley (Head of Safety and Operational Risk, Competency and Capability Development at the BP Group in London and former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of BPTT), Mr. Wilfred Espinet (AeroMarine Trinidad Limited), Mr. Gregory Marchan, (Representative of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU) and Mr. David Abdullah (Representative of the Oilfield Workers Trade Union (OWTU)).



Prime Minister Dr. The Honourable Keith Rowley presents Chairman, Mr. Selwyn Lashley, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy & Energy Affairs with his instrument of appointment.



Prime Minister Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley and Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and Minister in the Office of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, the Honourable Stuart Young, are pictured here with members of the Petrotrin Review Committee.



Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister, the Honourable Ayanna Webster-Roy stands with leaders in the Faith Based Community and members of Pan Caribbean Partnership against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP).

PANCAP and Caribbean Faith Leaders Host Consultation to **END HIV/AIDS by 2030**

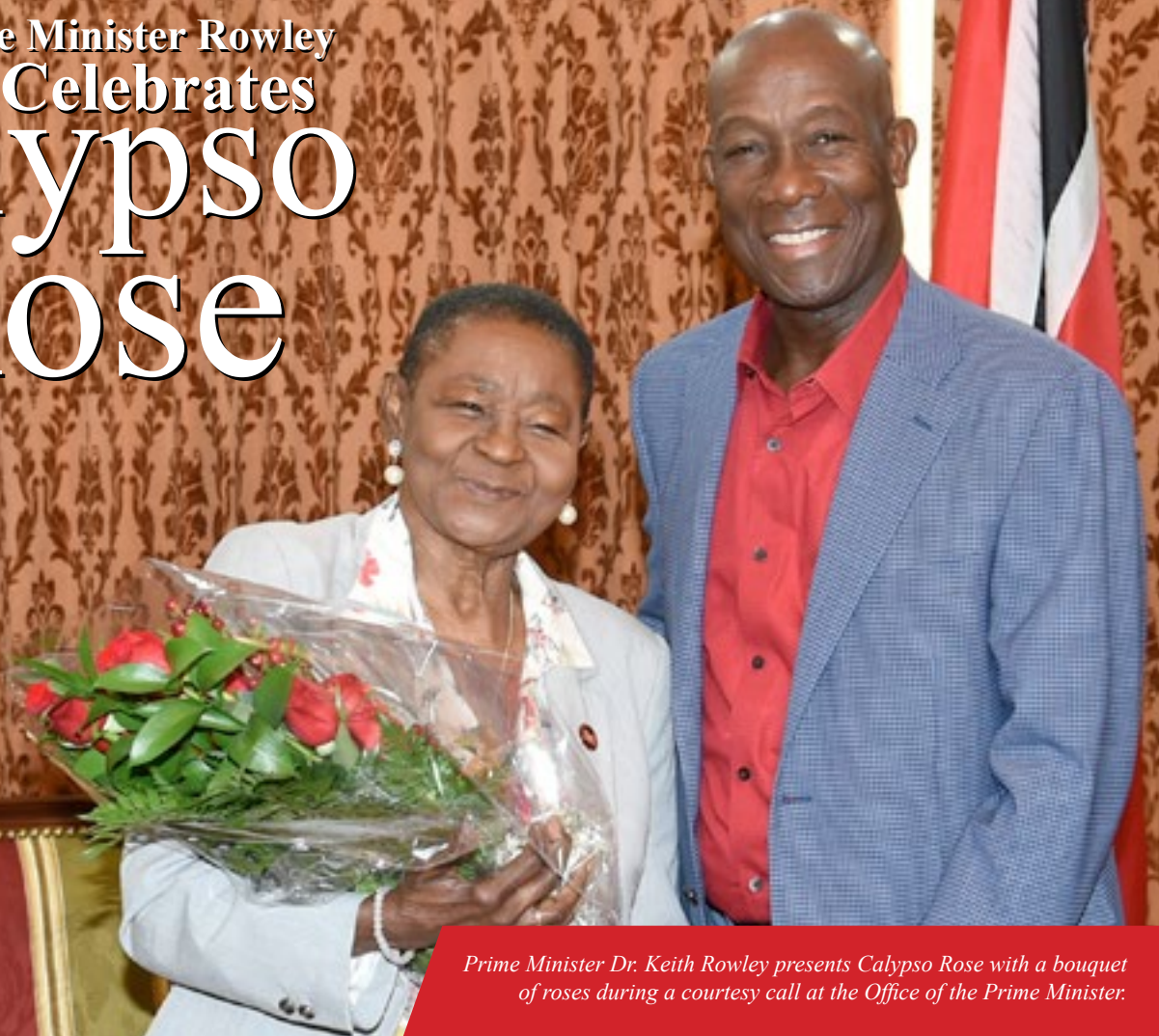
The Pan Caribbean Partnership Against HIV and AIDS (PANCAP) and Caribbean Faith Leaders hosted a consultation on ending HIV and AIDS by 2030, at the HYATT Regency, 1st – 2nd February 2017. Other collaborators included the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and the AIDS Health Care Foundation.

Over 55 religious and lay leaders representing different faiths and denominations across the Caribbean were present. The consultation addressed the recommendations

from the UN High-Level 2016 Political Declaration and agreed on strategies to promote healthy living for all age groups, reviewed practices, identified gaps to be filled, and types of resources and regional cooperation required.

In her address, Minister of State in the Office of the Prime Minister, Gender and Child Affairs, the Honourable Ayana Webster-Roy assured that Government is committed to collaborating with civil society organisations, faith-based organisations and other agencies to end HIV and AIDS in Trinidad and Tobago.

Prime Minister Rowley
Celebrates
**Calypso
Rose**



Prime Minister Dr. Keith Rowley presents Calypso Rose with a bouquet of roses during a courtesy call at the Office of the Prime Minister.

The Calypso Queen of the World, Ms. Mc Cartha Sandy-Lewis met with Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley on 24th February 2017 at the Office of the Prime Minister as she continues to celebrate her recent Album de Musique de Monde (World Music Album of the Year) award.

A beloved cultural icon, Calypso Rose has headlined major venues and festivals around the world including the U.S., Europe and Australia. This award is the latest accolade in a long list of achievements by one of the most decorated calypsonians in Trinidad and Tobago history.

Calypso Rose has also been the focus of several documentaries such as the Lioness of the Jungle, which is a full length feature about her career path as well as her life and work both in and outside of calypso music.

The Prime Minister used the occasion to personally congratulate Calypso Rose on her historic win. He expressed his pride in her illustrious career and sterling representation of Trinidad and Tobago on the international stage.

The single, 'Leave Me Alone' from her album was one of the most popular songs circulating on the airwaves and played at Carnival fetes this year.

Since this visit, Calypso Rose can now add 'Ambassador' to her many titles having been named Cultural Ambassador by Cabinet in honour of her achievements in the area of culture. The title comes with a diplomatic passport.

The Government will also name a Caribbean Airlines aircraft in honour of the calypsonian.

COURTESY CALLS

Cooperative Republic of Guyana Delegation

Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley received a courtesy call on Wednesday 8th February 2017 from Mr. Carl B. Greenidge, Second Vice President and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana. Also in attendance were the Honourable Stuart Young, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and Minister in the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs; Deputy High Commissioner of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Deborah Yaw; and High Commissioner of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana, Biswaishwar Ramsaroop Maraj.



Minister to the Emirates of Qatar, UNESCO Director General candidate and his advisor.

On Friday 13th January 2017, Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley received a courtesy call from H. E. Dr. Hamad Al Kawari, Minister to the Emirates of Qatar, UNESCO Director General candidate and his advisor Mr. Richard Griffiths. Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Senator the Honourable, Dennis Moses was also present.



Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China

Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley received a courtesy call on March 22, 2017 from Song Yumin, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.



The meeting was also attended by Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and Minister in the Office of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, the Honourable Stuart Young, Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses and Lu Bing, Officer Political and Consular Affairs, People's Republic of China to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

During the meeting the Prime Minister, the Ambassador and other officials discussed matters of mutual interest which included economic, trade and security matters. The Prime Minister also reaffirmed the Government's commitment to strengthening its bilateral relationship with China for the mutual benefit of both countries.



Prime Minister the Dr. Honourable Keith Rowley and his wife Mrs. Sharon Rowley arriving at the 10th Inauguration Ceremony of the Tobago House of Assembly.



New Chief Secretary Kelvin Charles and President Anthony Carmona during the Tobago House of Assembly swearing in ceremony



A cross section of the crowd at the 10th Inauguration Ceremony of the Tobago House of Assembly.

10TH INAUGURATION CEREMONY OF THE TOBAGO HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

Twelve assemblymen were sworn into the Tobago House of Assembly on January 26th 2017. In attendance were President Anthony Carmona, ORTT, SC; Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley; Chief Justice, Ivor Archie; Attorney General, Faris Al-Rawi; outgoing Chief Secretary, the Honourable Orville London and the 12 elected assemblymen, among others.

The new members of the Tobago House of Assembly are as follows:

- Kelvin Charles, Chief Secretary and Secretary of Education, Innovation and Energy
- Joel Jack, Deputy Chief Secretary and Secretary of Finance and the Economy
- Marslyn Melville-Jack, Secretary of Community Development, Enterprise Development and Labour
- Jomo Pitt, Secretary of Sports and Youth Affairs
- Hayden Spencer, Secretary of Food Production and Fisheries
- Clarence Jacob, Secretary of Settlements, Urban Renewal and Public Utilities
- Councillor Kwesi Des Vignes, Secretary of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment
- Councillor Dr. Agatha Carrington, Secretary of Health, Wellness and Family Development
- Councillor Nadine Stewart-Phillips, Secretary of Tourism, Culture and Transportation
- Ancil Dennis, Deputy Presiding Officer and Assistant Secretary in the Office of the Chief Secretary
- Marisha Osmond, Assistant Secretary in the Office of the Chief Secretary
- Sheldon Cunningham, Assistant Secretary of Infrastructure, Quarries and the Environment
- Watson Duke (Minority Leader)
- Farley Augustine (Member Parlatuvier/ L'Anse Fourmi/ Speyside)
- Dr. Faith B. Yisrael (Minority Councillor)
- Dr. Denise TsoiaFatt-Angus (Presiding Officer).

Legislative DEVELOPMENTS

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 Miscellaneous Provisions (Marriage) Bill, 2016

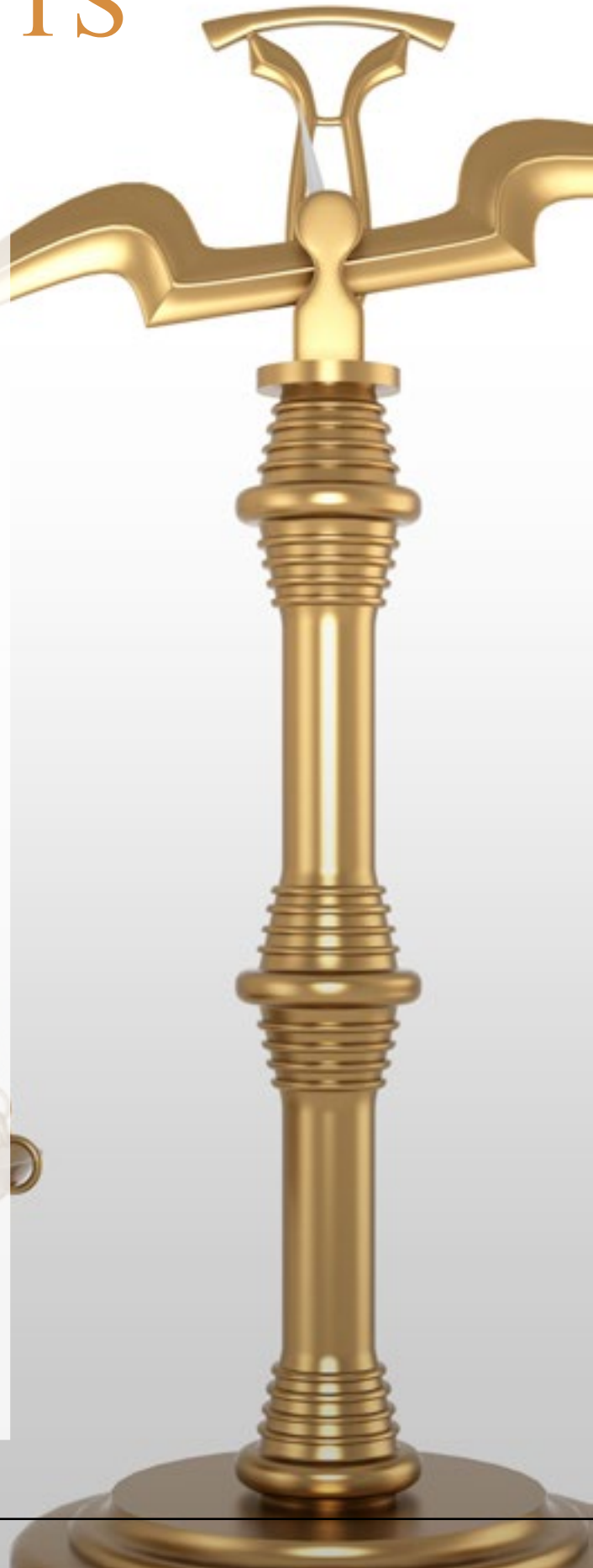
This act seeks to amend the Marriage Act, Chap. 45:01, the Muslim Marriage and Divorce Act, Chap. 45:02, The Hindu Marriage Act, Chap. 45:03, The Orisa Marriage Act, Chap. 45:04 and the Matrimonial Proceedings and Property Act, Chap. 45:51.

The Senate passed the bill on Tuesday 17th January 2017, raising the legal age of marriage in Trinidad and Tobago to eighteen (18) years. The legislation is being debated in the Lower House.

Tax Information Exchange Agreement Bill, 2016

The Tax Information Exchange Agreements Bill (2016) seeks to repeal and replace the Tax Information Exchange Agreements Act, Chap. 76:51. It provides for the implementation of agreements between Trinidad and Tobago and other States, for the exchange of information for the purposes of taxation, to validate the sharing of personal information held by the Board of Inland Revenue or financial institutions and for other related purposes.

On Thursday 23rd February 2016, the Bill was passed in Parliament at the International Waterfront Centre, Port of Spain. The bill was created to comply with the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (FATCA). FATCA is a United States Federal law passed in 2010. It requires Foreign Financial Institutions (FFI) to report to the U.S. International Revenue Service (IRS) financial information on U.S. citizens, green card holders and foreign entities in which U.S. taxpayers hold a substantial ownership interest. On Tuesday 7th March 2017, the Senate passed the Tax Information Exchange Agreement Bill 2016. This will shield Trinidad and Tobago from the adverse consequences of de-risking and de-banking.



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S **NEW STRATEGIC PLAN**

OUR VISION STATEMENT

To be the hallmark of excellence in the Public Service.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We provide professional coordinated, administrative and other support services to the Prime Minister in executing his constitutional responsibilities to Trinidad and Tobago.

OUR CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY

we are honest in all our dealings and we can be depended on to demonstrate complete harmony in what we say and do.

ACCOUNTABILITY

we accept and observe the obligation to account for our activities, to accept responsibility for them, and to disclose the results in a transparent manner. This includes the responsibility for money and other entrusted property.

TRANSPARENCY

we function without hidden agendas and conditions, and in our interactions we make available all information required for collaboration, cooperation, and collective decision making.

EQUITY

we operate with fairness and impartiality towards all concerned.

PROFESSIONALISM

we perform our duties with competence, good judgement and politeness.

EMPATHY

we place ourselves in the position of others in order to understand their thoughts and feelings.

COMMITMENT

we are dedicated to the mission, vision and values of the Office of the Prime Minister.

CONFIDENTIALITY

we can be trusted not to disclose private and secret information.

DIVERSITY

we respect, accept, and value differences among members of staff and the members of the many publics with whom we interact.





Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Head of the Public Service, Mrs. Sandra Jones receives token of appreciation from a representative of the Ministry of Health Administrative Professionals (MOHAP)

Ministry of Health HONOURS PS JONES

The Ministry of Health Administrative Professionals (MOHAP) was formed in 2010 by Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister and Head of the Public Service, Mrs. Sandra Jones during her period as PS at the Ministry of Health.

MOHAP's former chairperson, Ms. Margaret Kemola Sampson; Vice Chairperson, Mrs. Ruthlyn Dickson-Boxill and Treasurer, Ms. Ella Smith presented tokens of appreciation to Mrs. Sandra Jones recently.

Mrs. Jones played an instrumental role in the branding of the Administrative Professionals (APs) as an organisation. Thanks to Mrs. Jones' initial vision, the progress of the MOHAPs became a reality.

The group, comprised of the secretarial staff of the MOH, is the first of its kind within the public service.



REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
(Gender and Child Affairs)

DID YOU KNOW?

Girls are more vulnerable to become victims of sexual abuse while boys are more vulnerable to physical abuse and neglect.



For info or to
Make a report:

Children's Authority: 996 or 800-2014
www.ttchildren.org

ChildLine: 131

National Family Services: 623-2608
www.social.gov.tt

OPM (GCA): 627-1163
www.opm-gca.gov.tt



REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
(Gender and Child Affairs)

DID YOU KNOW?

Neglect and sexual abuse occurred the most out of all reported child abuse cases in T&T.



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REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
(Gender and Child Affairs)

Bullying

is a form of abuse that has three characteristics:

1. **Deliberate**

A bully wants to hurt someone

2. **Repeated**

A bully targets the same person again and again

3. **Power Imbalanced**

A bully picks on someone they see as weak

Be a Hero! Stand up against bullying.



Call 999
or 800-2014
or 800-4321
for help.

For info or to
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www.ttchildren.org

ChildLine: 131

National Family Services: 623-2608
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OPM (GCA): 627-1163
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A LOOK BACK IN THE
ARCHIVES



**Former Prime Minister Patrick Manning during
a 2003 Spiritual Baptist/ Shouter Liberation Day celebration.**