

Focus on

mpu

MINISTRY OF
PUBLIC UTILITIES

MPU's Strategic Direction

2008/09: Year in Review

Excerpts from the
Minister of Public Utilities'
contribution to the national
Budget Debate

Promoting Employee
Wellness



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MINISTRY'S-MANDATE

To provide effective leadership and governance in the delivery of public utilities to the citizenry of Trinidad and Tobago.

VISION-STATEMENT

An organisation dedicated to excellence in the delivery of public utilities for the sustainability of our country and an improved quality of life of its citizenry.

MISSION-STATEMENT

To facilitate the effective delivery of affordable and quality public utilities through a committed, resourceful team of professionals in close collaboration with all partners

CORE-VALUES

Integrity
Service Excellence
Accountability
Trust and Mutual Respect
Partnership

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Fiscal Year in Review:2008/09

Fiscal Year 2008/2009 heralded significant changes in the strategic direction of the Ministry of Public Utilities (MPU). The MPU management team embarked on a drive to transform the Ministry into an efficient and effective organization equipped to provide strategic leadership and governance in the delivery of public utilities to the national community. In pursuance of this goal, Management utilised the Ministerial Performance Management Framework (MPMF) tools to measure the Ministry's organisational performance, employee engagement, citizen/client services and management performance. Between October 2008 and April 2009, a team collected and analysed information, and developed a performance improvement plan geared to ensure that the Ministry achieved its Vision 2020 goals.

During the reporting period an approved MPU Organization Structure was introduced, which is expected to facilitate the delivery of the Ministry's mandate. A key initiative, designed to assist the transformation process and accompanying this achievement, was the establishment of an internal Change Management Team. The team, which brings together employees from every division within the Ministry, is charged with initiating, facilitating and monitoring the transformation process within the MPU.

Another crucial development was the drafting of the MPU Strategic Plan for the reporting period 2009/2012. This document, drafted by an internal team of experienced strategic planners, drew from the findings of the MPMF Report, the Consolidated Report on a Rapid Diagnostic of the MPU conducted by PriceWaterhouseCoopers and the results of the Trinidad and Tobago 2008 Public Service Employee Survey conducted by Market and Opinion Research International (MORI).

I am pleased to report that the Ministry of Public Utilities has already begun to see positive results from its transformation process. During the past 12 months, the Ministry has implemented a number of new initiatives with considerable success, which include: -

• Human Resource Management

In addition to the ongoing implementation of the approved Organization Structure, the Human Resource Services Division facilitated the convening of the MPMF and Change Management Committees which led the MPU's transformation process.

• Information and Communication Technology

During the reporting period, the Ministry's Information Technology Unit completed the networking of all Meteorological Services locations and began development of an Electronic Document Management System to digitize all MPU files and a Telecommunications Interconnectivity System to link the MPU, Electrical Division and the National Social Development Programme (NSDP) office in Tobago. Another deliverable, the MPU Website, is scheduled to go live by the end of October 2009.

• Agency Oversight

Over the past 12 months, the MPU provided advocacy and policy direction for the Utility Agencies under its purview. Milestones include: the facilitation of key initiatives such as the appointment of members to the Boards of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC), the Water & Sewerage Authority (WASA), Regulated Industries Commission (RIC), Trinidad and Tobago Postal Corporation (TTPost) and the Solid Waste Management Company Ltd. (SWMCOL); the implementation of the new Tariff Structure for T&TEC; the transformation of WASA and the separation of the management of potable water from wastewater; the strategic direction of Post in the 21st century, in alignment with the tenets

of the global umbrella organisation (the Universal Postal Union) and Government's Vision 2020 Development Agenda; the settlement of retroactive payments for WASA Estate Police; and the acquisition of land by T&TEC to construct infrastructure for the supply of improved electricity service to Arima, San Rafael, Wallerfield, Pointe-a-Pierre, Savana Grande, Naparima, Siparia and La Brea.



Editor in Chief,
Dr. Ellis Burris.

• Legislative Review

The Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (Amendment) Act No. 6 of 2009 is now in force. Previously, T&TEC could only receive money from the Government by way of a loan. The Amendment, however, has provided two critical mechanisms to assist the Commission in its financial management. Firstly, it allows the Government Ministry with responsibility for T&TEC to make payments to the Commission for public electric lamps. Secondly, it allows the Government to provide funding to T&TEC for the purpose of providing services in the public interest and in accordance with public policy considerations. Conclusively, the Ministry looks forward to working with T&TEC to build a stronger financial foundation.

• Meteorological Services

In fiscal year 2009/2010 the long-awaited physical portion of the implementation of the Caribbean Weather Radar Project was finally completed and the Synoptic (Forecasting) Office at Piarco started receiving radar images from October 2008. The Radar is capable of capturing water particles in clouds up to a radial range of 400km and displaying them as images in near real time. The Met Office is in the process of acquiring a new state of the art polar orbiting satellite receiving system that will provide data on surface winds, cloud top products, cloud optical depths, land and sea surface temperatures, precipitable water, volcanic alerts and enhanced vegetation indices among other parameters. The web site for the Meteorological Services Division is now on line and can be sourced from www.metoffice.gov.tt.

• Electrical Inspectorate

The Electrical Code Committee of the Board of Engineering, in collaboration with the MPU and the Electrical Inspectorate, has begun work on the Strategic Plan for the Electrical Inspectorate Division (EID). A recommendation for the restructuring of the EID will be the main deliverable of the deliberations. The report is expected to be completed and submitted for consideration to the MPU on or before January 2010.

• National Social Development Programme

During the reporting period the NSDP team completed: 871 House Wiring projects at a cost of TT\$10,497,025; 105 Electrification projects at a cost of TT\$6,854,643; and illuminated 23 Parks and Recreation Grounds at a cost of TT\$17,133,116. Over the same period 184 Water projects were initiated at an estimated cost of TT\$90,000,000. As at July 31, 2009, 89 of these Water projects were completed.

As we begin fiscal year 2009/2010, I call on all MPU employees to continue to work together, and with the Agencies, to position the Ministry as the benchmark for the provision of quality utilities in the Caribbean region. In the words of the MPU Creed... "Coming Together is the Beginning; Staying Together is Progress; Achieving Together is Success."

Dr. Ellis Burris
Editor in Chief & Deputy Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Public Utilities

Excerpts from the Minister of Public Utilities' contribution to the national Budget Debate

Mr. Speaker, it is a great pleasure for me tonight to stand to make my own contribution to the Appropriation Bill 2009/2010. As I stand here I would really like to begin with offering my very sincere congratulations to the Honourable Karen Nunez-Tesheira, Minister of Finance, for her preparation and presentation, of what was, no doubt, an excellent budget. I would really like to invite all Members, and members of the public as well, to contemplate this budget, not in isolation, but to really examine it in the context of a number of budgets that would have been presented to this honourable House over the last seven or eight years. One must examine the cumulative effects of budget after budget after budget, and the impact of those budgets over a period of governance.

...

Mr. Speaker, **the Electricity sector**; We utilise 1,180 megawatts (MW) of power today, and in the various sectors you would know that the residential customers demand 28%; 2% of our power goes to street lighting; 9% to our commercial entities; light industry 23% and heavy industry 38%.



Mr. Speaker, it would interest you to know for a developing country that over 60% of our power demand is from the industrial sector. We are fast moving towards becoming a fully industrialized nation and that is an important piece of information to understand, because it tells you something about the character of our country.

To generate this power, we have five power generation stations. At Point Lisas we generate 842 MW. It is what is called 'a simple cycle plant'. We use only natural gas. The Trinity Power Plant at Brechin Castle produces 225 MW, again with the use of natural gas; Penal 236 MW. This is our only 'combined cycle



*The Honourable
Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, MP
Minister of Public Utilities*

plant', where we use natural gas and some gas turbines, and we use the exhaust steam to generate additional electricity. So 124 MW is generated by natural gas and 62 MW, which is considerable, is generated from steam without the use of any additional fuel. In Tobago we have a 21 MW plant operating on diesel and Port of Spain, 280 MW is the installed capacity again, uses natural gas with a heavy oil back-up.

That is where we are today. It is important to understand we demand 1,180 MW and we can generate just around 1,600 MW of power. It is important that you can generate at least 30% in excess of your demand. That difference is what you use to ensure reliability in your system to deal with any downtime, planned or unplanned, as the case might be.

We have a number of very important projects underway as part of our development programme and we have to be able to anticipate the power demand for those projects. We expect an expansion in the housing sector with an expansion in demand among residential customers. That will be gradual and steady.

Wherever you have residential areas, commercial activity tends to take place. Growth in light industry, like the O'Meara Industrial Estate, Diamond Vale Industrial Estate, also tends to be gradual and steady. Heavy industry tends to make dramatic increases in demand of electricity.

One heavy industrial plant can demand as much as 450 MW of power. That is a significant jump. That is about ten times what is consumed in all of Grenada, all of Barbados. And we have



a number of heavy industrial projects that are underway. The aluminum smelter, for example, will demand 460 MW. That is a big jump. The desalination plants, which we anticipate will come on stream, in phases, over the next few years, will demand 92 MW – all four of them.

The gas to polypropylene project, together with other petro chemical industries, will demand just around 225 MW at Point Lisas. Right now there is an upgrade of Petrotrin. We have already contemplated and calculated that into our projections. That will demand 96 MW. At Tamana, the light industries and downstream aluminium will demand 22 MW and other light manufacturing exercise. And, in Tobago, the Cove Industrial Estate together with the Studley Park Industrial Estate will demand about 15 MW or 20 MW all told in Tobago – new demand.

If we have new demand we must have more power, because today we only have 1,600 MW of power installed. Right now under construction at Union Estate is a 720 MW power generation plant, again combined cycle. The advantage of combined cycle is that it allows you to use your natural gas more efficiently.

The first 450 MW of power will be generated using natural gas and the remaining 270 MW will be generated using the exhaust steam. So together we will get 720 MW of power coming out of that plant, providing power not only to the aluminium smelter, but also to the national grid. We already have six generation units in the country and we are proceeding full speed ahead with that particular project.

We will also expand the Trinity Power Plant. There is a 225 MW natural gas; we will add 113 MW and that 113 MW will be combined cycle, using the steam. So there will be no additional demand for gas at Trinity. Similarly at Point Lisas – 842 MW – we will add 100 MW. Only steam will be used as fuel. Right now we are also discussing with the Ministry of Works and Transport for a site for a Sea Lots power plant which will be the replacement plant for the Wrightson Road power plant, and which we expect to be a 720 MW plant, again combined cycle. We are also contemplating a new power plant for Wallerfield, but that will take place sometime later, around 2013.

All told, the total generation capacity to 2020 in Trinidad will be 3,320 MW. This Government has done its work and we know what our numbers are. We have done a very careful analysis and our total demand to 2020 will be 2,461 MW, approximately, and again we are respecting the relationship, exceeding demand by at least 30% to ensure the reliability of the supply of power.

In terms of reporting successes, in a matter of months we will be commissioning a new power generation plant in Tobago at Cove Industrial Estate, 64 MW. We are well on course in terms of achieving our targets in the electricity sector in the context of Vision 2020.

All of that must be supported by a transmission system and new transmission infrastructure. We are in the process of installing new 220 KV circuits. We have completed 61 kilometres out of 109 kilometres; 60% of our new 220 KV circuit. That is a historical number. Since the establishment of the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC), we have only had power transmitted up to 132 KV. It is more efficient to transmit power over long distances with a higher voltage and so we have gone up to 220 KV.

We have new 132 KV circuits. We have completed 40% of the installations; 57 kilometres out of 163 kilometres. New 66 KV circuits; we have completed 15 out of 60 kilometres in lines, and we have constructed as well 14 new substations, 50% completed in term of our transmission and infrastructure.

In summary, to 2020 we are looking at an expansion to eight power generation stations; 107 high voltage substations; 1,627 kilometres of transmission lines and cables; 6,970 kilometres of distribution lines and cables. In short, Trinidad and Tobago will have the most sophisticated electricity sector in the English-speaking Caribbean and within the wider Caribbean. Perhaps only Puerto Rico will have a system more sophisticated than Trinidad and Tobago. This expansion we propose to do utilizing a power purchase agreement. Government equity will be a major factor, together with private sector involvement.

There are a number of points that also need to be addressed. The Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) is a new technology for improvement in measurement of supply of electricity. Out of the 400,000 projected meters, we have already installed over 380,000. As advertised, a new call centre has been established. Citizens can now access T&TEC to make their trouble calls with our assurance that they will speak to a customer service representative within 90 seconds. We are using infrared technology to detect faults in lines even before we get outages. We are installing animal guards and other protective mechanisms to ensure that animals do not contact our lines and create outages. We have done quite a bit of infrastructure work to ensure that we can offer the most reliable service to our citizens of Trinidad and Tobago.

...

The Water sector. We have been working hard over the last several months to ensure that the quality of management at the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) is improved. The Board has taken some very tough decisions to ensure that we improve the quality of our management. If you do not have good quality management, no amount of money you put into WASA will give you the outcome that you want or need. Your very first order of business is to fix the organization and that is what we have been doing. We have since produced a governance manual that will guide the conduct of all business in WASA.

We have worked in close collaboration with all stakeholders in the transformation of the organization and we are already beginning to see the results in the conduct of the organization. We are confident now that as we put money into the organization by way of investment in infrastructure, we

can and will get better results.

I think that our achievements in WASA in terms of the transformation exercise over the last 13 months have been what one might call “an outrageous success”. As you know, we have a development programme for the construction of desalination plants. We are at the point of signing a contract with programme managers responsible for the desalination plants. Their role would be to supervise construction once it has started and oversee and prepare our tender documents, do some preliminary geotechnical surveys and water testing. That would be done over the next few months, after which we go to construction.

In the interim we have negotiated with the Desalination Company of Trinidad and Tobago (Desalcott) for the expansion of the existing plant and we will go to 40 million gallons per day over the next



Installation of new pipelines

Electrification of Eddie Hart's recreational grounds



three months. That would provide some significant relief to San Fernando and further south. It will also mean that some of the water that comes from Caroni can now be directed to Port of Spain to improve the water supply along the East/West Corridor, while the water from Point Lisas will improve the north/south water supply.

In anticipation of the desalination plants, we have

also developed a plan that would give us some good results in the short-term. It is called a Management Action Plan. We have identified 51 wells that would be new water sources. Some of them have been started by WASA although the work has not been completed. These wells are located in Moka, Tucker Valley, Valsayn, Aripo, Guanapo, Cumuto, Matura, Freeport, Carlsen Field, Las Lomas, Mammoral, Caparo, Talparo, River Estate, St. Augustine, Brazil, Todds Road, Point Fortin, Guapo, Fyzabad, and Grande Rivierie.

We also propose to purchase five portable water treatment plants which would be located at La Fortune, Clarke Road, Matura, Blue Basin and Fyzabad. These are areas where water sources have been located but we need to be able to treat the water. Those five plants will give us 3 million gallons per day.

More important than the total, is the strategic location of these water sources that, together with three portable desalination plants at Erin, Mayaro and Cove, would give us 5.5 million gallons of water per day. In the short-term we will be able to get a water supply to our citizens and in the long-term we will have the capacity to make emergency interventions. Whenever we have a crisis we can move around the portable plants to ensure that we are able to better supply our citizens.

We have also identified 91 kilometres (km) of high leakage mains for the first time. They are EL Socorro, 7.2 km; Western Main Road, 12.2 km; Old Dinsley, 4.1 km; Tucker Valley, 8.0 km; Old Hollis, Maracas Royal Road, 12.0 km. We have identified specific kilometres of pipelines that need to be changed. These are the ones that are most culpable in our unaccounted for water leakage problems. We have also identified 85 km of new pipeline that we need to put in place. We have done the work and we are now in a position where we can proceed to develop this infrastructure on the basis of sound analysis and well-prepared and well-developed plans.

...

(National Social Development Programme) We have installed 77,000 new street lamps over the last several years. 3,500 in Tobago; 10,985 in North Trinidad; 21,286 in East Trinidad; 16,059 in Central Trinidad; and 25,756 in South Trinidad. We have also upgraded existing lamps.

We also embarked on a programme for lighting public spaces and recreation grounds. Examples include: The Aranguez Savannah, Toruba Recreation Ground, Esmeralda Recreation Ground in Cunupia, New Settlement Ground by Rainbow Palace in Chaguanas, Ragoonan Road Recreation Ground, Couva Recreation Ground by KFC, Tableland Recreation Ground, Tableland Recreation Local Road, Bamboo No. 2 Recreation Ground, Carapo Recreation Ground, Rousillac Recreation Ground and Salazar Trace in Point Fortin.

Over the last several years you would be familiar with the very successful National Social Development Programme (NSDP). Since 2002, we have done 1,283 electrification projects at a cost of \$180 million. Those projects are intended to provide electricity to communities that may not have had this service. The way T&TEC works, if a community requests new infrastructure that was not included in the Commission's approved Scope of Works, that customer will have to pay for a portion of the infrastructure cost. Through the NSDP, Government has been providing the funding to allow for the introduction of new infrastructure in some of these vulnerable communities.

This programme was conceptualized and presented to the Government and country by the Honourable Patrick Manning subsequent to a number of walks-about that he had done some years ago. His compassion and care for the people led him to recognize the need and introduce a programme where we could use our money in support of average citizens. The same thing can be said in the water sector where we have a number of projects on stream to improve the quality of life of our citizens.

We also pay contractors to wire people's houses. If there are citizens who require that their homes be rewired, the Government is prepared to pay for that and all you need do is to apply and demonstrate that you qualify. Since 2005, there have been 3,853 homes rewired, belonging to citizens of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, throughout the length and breadth of this country.

Just for posterity I will just list three constituencies. From 2007 to now, we have wired 152 homes in Cumuto/Manzanilla, 250 homes in Princes Town, and 141 homes in Fyzabad.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you very much for the opportunity to make this contribution. Once again, as I close, I congratulate the Minister of Finance for the brilliant work that she has been doing in helping to keep this country stable as we move steadfastly towards Vision 2020.

Thank you very much.

Mustapha Abdul-Hamid

Avoid the Risk...

Ensure Your Electrician is Licensed!

An electrician needs to have an understanding of the electrical code. Only with an understanding of electrical theory and the ability to perform electrical calculations does the code begin to make sense. Without that knowledge, the electrical practitioner is limited in what he or she can do and is not capable of being a troubleshooter or knowing when it is safe to bend the rules.

Sometimes it is necessary to make a compromise because of the practicalities that are being faced. One must know if the solution is “ok” or if it will lead to a hazardous situation where there is the risk of fire or where someone may be injured or even electrocuted. It is interesting to note that ‘Rules and Regulations are for the guidance of the wise and not for the blind obedience of fools’. This is certainly true in the application of the Electrical Code and Regulations.

One can be a ‘parts swapper’, a competent installer of components, or a troubleshooter who understands the underlying electrical principles that are necessary to solve problems and institute appropriate solutions. That may be the pungent difference between the unlicensed electrician and the licensed electrician.

In general, unlicensed electricians are: -

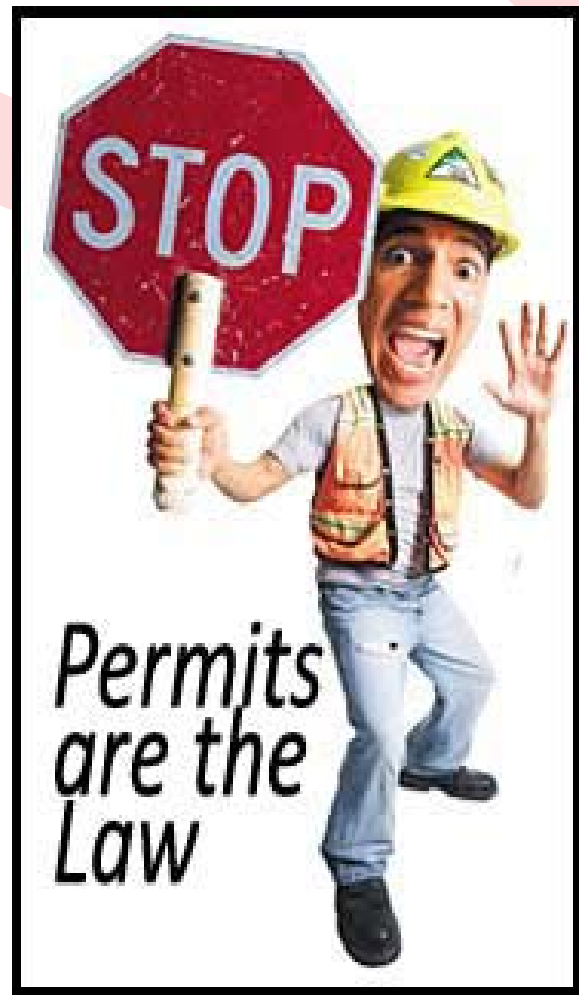
1. limited in their knowledge of code requirements. The vast majority of unlicensed electricians accumulate their technical knowledge from observing other persons at work and have convinced themselves that such observance is sufficient. They may be ignorant of the correct reasons for undertaking the various operations that comprise the electrical installation work and so are prone to mistakes that may be hazardous. (Most don't know that they don't know). Some hazards, if not detected by the Electrical Inspector, may be the igniter of a tragedy that is waiting to happen.

2. limited in their estimating capability. Producing a reasonable estimate for a job requires knowledge to simultaneously satisfy the client's needs and the Regulations. A lack of that knowledge usually leads to a “guesstimate” where overpricing or under-pricing occurs. Under-pricing may be the precursor of conflict between the client and the electrician leading to difficulties in completing the job, ie, the job being ‘hang-up’, or a completed installation using sub-standard or unapproved material.

3. not recognized by the Chief Electrical Inspector. Only licensed electricians are authorized to work or supervise work on any electrical wiring installation [Chapter 54:71 Electrical Installations (Buildings) Act]. The Chief Electrical Inspector can suspend or revoke the license of any licensed wireman for any inappropriate conduct or work performance that may pose a hazard to life and/or property. Conversely, with an unlicensed electrician, it could be extremely difficult if not impossible for the owner of the installation to get any redress from contractual disputes.

4. not legally authorized to offer their service to the public. As indicated at ‘3’ above, an unlicensed electrician is not authorized to do any new installation work or perform any alterations to existing installations.

To ensure your electrician is licensed, request the person to produce his/her valid Wireman's License and verify such from the office of the Chief Electrical Inspector, Corner Cochrane Street and Eastern Main Road, Tunapuna (Tel.: 645-6773).



MPU introduces the new

SWMCOL Board of Directors



The new SWMCOL Board of Directors capture the moment with the Minister of Public Utilities and the Minister of Local Government. From left; Mr. Allan Julien, Ms. Gillian Simon, Ms. Natasha Lamy, Mr. Carlton Watson (Chairman), Minister Abdul-Hamid, Minister Manning, Mr. Verne Britto, Mr. Wendell Raeburn and Mr. Trevor Ifill. Absent: Mr. Ray M.S. Brathwaite (Managing Director, SWMCOL)

The new Board of Directors of the Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL) was introduced to the Public Utilities Fraternity at a reception hosted by the Ministry of Public Utilities (MPU) and the Honourable Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Minister of Public Utilities, at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel, Invaders Bay, on September 18, 2009. Guests included Senator, the Honourable Hazel Manning, Minister of Local Government, Permanent Secretaries from both the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Finance, and representatives of the Boards and Executive Management of Utility Agencies and the MPU.

SWMCOL, a wholly owned state enterprise of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, was incorporated under the Companies Act in November 1980. Whereas SWMCOL's Shareholder is the Corporation Sole in the Ministry of Finance, the company's day to day operations fall under the purview of the Minister of Public Utilities.

With more than 28 years' experience in environmental management, SWMCOL's mandate includes: the design and implementation of solid and hazardous waste management systems and structures; the construction and management of engineered landfills; the transportation and processing of faecal waste; the processing of recyclable materials; and the provision of advice to the local government body on waste management.

At present, SWMCOL is collaborating with a team of representatives from Nova Scotia and the Ministry of Local Government on the establishment of a National Integrated Waste Management System (NIWMS), which involves the separation of waste at source and the composting of bio-degradable waste that in turn leads to the process of waste diversion. Waste diversion includes tyre disposal/shredding, car shredding and methods of recycling for plastics, glass and other non-compostable items.

A progress report on NIWMS formed the basis of an address delivered by the Honourable Hazel Manning, Minister of Local Government. Minister Manning focussed on the successful relationship which exists between SWMCOL and the Ministry of Local Government and expressed her confidence that the new Board would continue to support her Ministry's efforts to deliver an efficient waste disposal system to the national community.

In his Feature Address, the Honourable Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Minister of Public Utilities, shared some of the deliverables expected from the new SWMCOL Directors while he welcomed them into the Public Utility Fraternity. Minister Abdul-Hamid called attention to the encouraging mix of youth and experience which he said would bring a new perspective to the company.

The official Welcome Ceremony was followed by a cocktail reception during which the new SWMCOL Board of Directors got the opportunity to meet and socialise with their counterparts from the other Utilities as well representatives from SWMCOL's Executive Management Team.



MPU PS, Mrs. Jacqueline Ganteaume-Farrell, shares a light moment with Minister Hazel Manning and PS Cheryl Blackman from the Ministry of Local Government.





TTPost's Managing Director, Sheldon Cyrus, welcomes guests to the Corporation's Emancipation celebrations.



MPU Emancipation Queen, Vicky-ann Farrell (left) and Emancipation King, Kobina Wilson (right) receive their prizes from Victor Jones, Director HR Services and PS Jacqueline Ganteaume-Farrell.



T&TEC's Chairman, Prof. Clement Imbert (second from left) and Mrs. Imbert join Management and staff in the national observance of Emancipation.



It's a pity we don't dress like this every day in the Ministry!



Members of the African Emancipation Committee present their Chairman, Ruthvin Charles, with a token of appreciation



National Cricketer, Darren Ganga, surrounded by young fans at TSTT's Summer Camp.



Comedian and TTPost employee, Tommy Joseph, and Nicole Smart make their first appearance as TTPost's King and Queen of Emancipation.



MPU staffers model authentic African wear at the Ministry's Emancipation gala.

Photo

Focus

...MPU at Play



WORLD CLIMATE CONFERENCE 2009

The World Climate Conference, the brainchild of the World Meteorological Organization, is geared primarily towards deliberations over global climate issues. This global initiative effectively brings the world's climate intellectual resources together to improve climate prediction and information services. The collective response is a recognition that the world is served by one climate system which redistributes heat, energy and other atmospheric and oceanic constituents. It also reflects the absolute necessity – even indispensability – of worldwide cooperation in addressing any imbalance in the climate system that exists as a result of anthropogenic forcing.

It is not surprising that the first two World Climate Conferences (WCC) focused largely on climate change including climate research and forecasting. The first, the WCC-1 held in Geneva, Switzerland from February 12-23, 1979, culminated in the establishment of the World Climate Programme, the World Climate Research programme and the creation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The IPCC, in particular, received high acclaim in 2007, by sharing the Nobel Peace Prize with Ex-United States Vice President Al Gore Jr., for its contribution to the development and dissemination of information about man-made climate change, and the measures needed to counteract such change.

The later conference, WCC-2, also held in Geneva, Switzerland during October/November 1990, was instrumental in developing the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which includes the Kyoto Protocol as well as the development of the Global Climate Observing System (GCOS). As the name suggests, GCOS is a global observing system for climate and climate-related observations.

The third World Climate Conference (WCC-3), carded for August 31 to September 4, 2009 in Geneva, Switzerland, will focus on climate predictions and information for decision-making at the seasonal to

multi-decadal timescales. WCC-3 will be structured so that developments originating from the meeting's deliberations will inform decision-makers/policy-makers on climate issues in the short to medium term. This will be particularly relevant in the management and distribution of water resources for an upcoming season – such as the dry or wet season in Trinidad and Tobago – which could be seriously affected by climate variability or change. Similar challenges can arise in other Small Island States whose primary revenue-generating sectors (e.g. tourism) are highly vulnerable to changes and variability in the climate.

In light of these issues, the conference theme includes the application of climate prediction and information to societal problems. This will enable adaptation to climate variability and change such as agriculture and food security, forestry, energy, water, health, urban and rural settlements, infrastructure, tourism, wildlife, trade and transport which contribute to sustainable socio-economic development (World Meteorological Information, 2009).

WCC-3 is expected to address four sub-themes running in parallel sessions. They include: (1) advancing climate prediction and information science, (2) climate risk management strategies and information needs, (3) climate impacts and adaptive strategies, and (4) mainstreaming climate predictions and information services. The expected outcomes of this third World Climate Conference are (1) greatly increased understanding of the scientific and practical issues involved in the implementation of improved global, regional and national arrangements for the provision and application of climate services, and (2) a shared understanding of a strategy for implementing a new Global Framework for Climate Services.

For additional information on World Climate Conference 2009, please visit http://www.wmo.int/wcc3/theme_en.php.





29 Trainees Graduate

FROM T&TEC's PENAL TECHNICAL TRAINING FACILITY

Claxton Bay, in the heart of Trinidad's industrial belt, provided a fitting backdrop for the graduation ceremony for twenty-nine young men from the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission's (T&TEC's) Penal Technical Training Facility. The ceremony was held on Saturday July 11, 2009 at the Cara Suites Hotel and Conference Centre.

The Honourable Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Minister of Public Utilities, delivered the feature address and spoke about Government's efforts to provide free tertiary education for Trinidad and Tobago citizens. He advised the young Graduates to make the most of educational opportunities afforded them.

T&TEC's Chairman, Professor Clement Imbert, also reiterated the importance of education and urged the young men to further explore educational options.

Mr. Courtenay Mark, T&TEC's Acting General Manager, was also among the speakers. Mr. Mark informed the audience that "this inaugural graduation ceremony of the Technical Training Facility will ensure that T&TEC has the skills base capacity to deliver a safe, reliable, high quality electricity supply to its customers."

The awards presented to Graduates included: -

- Best Performing Trainee Overall and Valedictorian – Kenrick Ramsaroop,
- Best Performing Substation Electrician Trainee – Ravindra Laltoo,
- Best Attendance and Punctuality – Avry Mitchell,
- Most Outstanding Cricketer – Indar Persad,
- Most Outstanding Basketballer – Daniel Lively, and
- Most Outstanding Footballer – Jacon Salick.

The twenty-nine Graduates are now employed with the Commission following their successful completion of T&TEC's 3½ year technical training programme.

The function ended with a rendition from 4-time T&TEC Power Monarch, Godwin Jerome, entitled "Conserve Electricity". Also entertaining the audience were Hilary Duncan and Marielle Thomas of T&TEC's Southern Distribution office.



Members of the audience react during one of the speeches at the ceremony.



The Honourable Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Minister of Public Utilities, presents valedictorian Kenrick Ramsaroop with the award for Best Performing Trainee Overall.



The Honourable Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Minister of Public Utilities, presents Jacon Salick with the award for Most Outstanding Footballer. T&TEC's Chairman, Professor Clement Imbert, and Courtenay Mark, T&TEC's Acting General Manager, chat in the background.



The Honourable Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Minister of Public Utilities, presents Kwane Radix, a Graduate of the Facility, with his Certificate.

PROMOTING EMPLOYEE WELLNESS

How many times have you cried, “Ah have to start to work out, oui, ah getting too fat!”, and then made it one of your goals to shed some pounds by a certain date or before you attend a special event. This has become an all too familiar situation in the lives of people the world over who have realised that they have allowed their physical appearance to change in comparison to how they looked in their younger years.

In alignment with Goal 4 under Vision 2020's Development Pillar II – “Nurturing a Caring Society”, which states “All citizens will be empowered to lead long, healthy lifestyles and have adequate access to an efficient health care delivery system”, the Ministry of Public Utilities has decided to introduce an in-house Wellness Programme to promote healthy living among its employees. The first initiative under this Programme is the inclusion of a Wellness Column in the MPU Quarterly Newsletter to provide information on the approach to and benefits of living a healthy life. Far too often, we hear of

someone who has suffered from the effects of living an unhealthy lifestyle. As human beings, we have to be wary of illnesses such as heart disease, diabetes, cancer and strokes which are considered lifestyle diseases and often lead to death. It is, therefore, time that we take charge and live up to our goal of “living healthier.”

The Wellness Column will focus on the main components of healthy living such as the foods we consume, the recommended level of physical activity we need and the effects of family history on our wellbeing. How we manage these factors impacts, to a large degree, on our overall health, so it is very important that they are controlled effectively and responsibly.

As we start the journey on the road to a healthier future we acknowledge that it will not be an easy task. With our support, we urge you to take up the mantle and take control of your health and wellbeing!



Mrs. Sarah Briggs – Manager, Customer Service Unit; 1/11/02 – 18/09/09 (Promoted within the Public Service)

Good Luck as You Follow your Dreams!

Fiscal Year 2008/09 has been a period of dynamic change within the Ministry of Public Utilities (MPU). Several of our valued employees left the Ministry to explore career opportunities in and out of the Public Service.

The MPU Management and Staff wish to express our sincere appreciation for the contribution these ex-employees made to the successful operations of the Ministry and we extend our best wishes to all for continued success as they face new and exciting challenges.



Ms. Glenda Bruce – Project Co-ordinator, Project Implementation Unit; April 3/04/06 – 2/04/08 (Seeks new horizon)



Mrs. Melba Braithwaite-Issa – Project Officer, National Social Development Programme; 5/09/06 – 4/09/09 (Returned to substantive post)



Ms. Nadine Claxton – Research Analyst, Research Unit; 4/09/06 – 6/09/09 (Seeks new horizon)



Mr. Anslym De Coteau – Programme Co-ordinator, National Social Development Programme; 20/01/04 – 18/05/08 (Seeks new horizon)



Ms. Ayleen Ovid – Senior Project Officer, Sectoral Programmes and Projects Unit; 1/06/06 – 31/05/09 (Returned to substantive post)



Mrs. Michelle Durham Kisson – Senior Economic Policy Analyst, Economic, Research and Planning Division; 7/11/05 – 6/11/08 (Returned to substantive post)

Let's keep Our Coasts Clear!



SWMCOL & the 2009 International Coastal Cleanup (ICC)

The International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) is a worldwide project initiated by Ocean Conservancy, a non-profit advocacy group with goals to protect and promote a healthy and diverse ocean ecosystem. This project engages persons in the removal of trash and debris from the world's beaches and waterways. The trash is not only removed, but the source of the debris is found.

The main objective of this monumental project is to change individual behavioural patterns that contribute to marine pollution. Once the debris is collected and removed, volunteers record the various types of debris. The debris is analysed by the Ocean Conservancy in order to distinguish the major contributors and sources of the problem. The collated information is then used to educate the public, business organisations and government authorities about the problems discovered. The Ocean Conservancy belief is that understanding the problem is the key to its eventual solution.

As ambassadors of the environment and champions of waste management, the Trinidad and Tobago Solid Waste Management Company Limited (SWMCOL) has partnered with the National Planning Committee of Trinidad and Tobago to drive the International Coastal Cleanup in Trinidad and Tobago. The transformational beach cleanup experience, which occurs simultaneously on close to one hundred beaches worldwide, is scheduled for the third Saturday in September each year. This year it is set for September 19, 2009.

The local coordinator for the "International Coastal Clean-up" is the Caribbean Network for Integrated Rural Development (CNIRD). The partners involved are various companies such as the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment (DNRE), The West Indian Tobacco Company (WITCO), Atlantic LNG, and SWMCOL - Your Partner in Defence of the Environment, just to name a few.

This mission has existed in Trinidad and Tobago for a number of years and the venture continues to be a tremendous success! From the thirteen beaches affected (8-Trinidad, 5-Tobago) statistical reports have been documented. In 2009, we experienced an even greater turn out and successful cleanup of Trinidad and Tobago's greatest tourist attractions. Some of the beaches/waterways included: Balandra Beach, Caura River and Chagville Beach in Trinidad as well as Tyrrel's Bay and Prince Bay, Roxborough in Tobago.

SWMCOL would like to thank all Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Community-Based Organisations (CBOs) for joining with us to ensure the continued protection and enhancement of the environment and, by extension, maintaining a clean and beautiful Trinidad and Tobago. Remember, saving the environment can be done by changing our actions, but it must first start by changing our minds!

For further information/details regarding any interest or affiliation to this event please contact the SWMCOL Head Office, Corporate Communications Unit at 1-868-625-6678.



Takes the Governance Lead

On Wednesday August 26, 2009, the Honourable Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Minister of Public Utilities, launched two strategic initiatives aimed at guiding the Board, Management and the recognised Unions in the transformation of the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA).

The first deliverable, 'e-voice', is an anonymous web-based reporting system, which would allow the organisation's stakeholders to report matters of concern and submit suggestions with the assurance of confidentiality. The second undertaking, a Corporate Governance Manual, sets out the framework by which the Authority would be governed, controlled and directed.

These initiatives are considered pivotal to the future of WASA, in the achievement of the desired efficiencies and effectiveness in the Authority's business operations.

At the launch of the governance initiatives at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre, Chairman Dr. Shafeek G.A. Sultan-Khan told the audience that collaboration with the duly recognised unions ensured the completion and acceptance of the Governance Manual.

According to Dr. Sultan-Khan, the Manual will direct new corporate standards of behaviour, ethics, values, principles and policies and will enable the Authority to offer itself as a model of good governance in the public sector. In addition, the implementation of the anonymous web based reporting system will provide a confidential service designed to protect the interest of the organisation's stakeholders.

The Chairman also noted that, "this is critical to the building of trust and confidence and the creation of an environment which will harness the human capital." Both the Governance Manual and 'e-voice' would act as tools to reinforce ethical practices, values and corporate standards within WASA.

Minister of Public Utilities, the Honourable Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, endorsed the statements of Chairman Dr. Sultan-Khan and was high in praise of the New Governance Initiatives as he received the first copy of the manual.

In delivering the feature address, Minister Abdul-Hamid indicated that the Government focused on three major variables for the management of WASA "honesty, value for money and discipline", all of which would support Government's commitment to



WASA's Chairman, Dr. Shafeek G.A. Sultan-Khan and Dr. Andre Vincent Henry, Chairman of the Human Resource Committee of the Board, look on while The Honourable Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Minister of Public Utilities, formally launches e-voice.

the provision of efficient potable water and wastewater services; a competent and capable Board to implement the required changes and necessary reforms, as well as the contribution of workers and the duly recognised unions.

Minister Abdul-Hamid spoke of the need for a more productive and efficient use of in-house resources and predicted WASA would become the benchmark for quality governance in the future. He also made reference to intended improvements within the wastewater system, lamenting that only 30% of the population receives wastewater services. This, he believed, is enough reason to further develop the water and wastewater systems separately in order to provide adequate focus and improve the relevant skills for each sector.

During his presentation, Dr. Henry invited Mr. James Lambert NUGFW President General and Mr. Andy Crichlow, President NUGFW WASA Section, on stage, while Minister Abdul-Hamid presented a special award to Perry Carr, a Waterworks Craftsman III. Mr. Carr was recognised for his innovative solution to improving the water supply to certain western communities.

Dr. Henry reiterated that the concept of 'e-voice' was premised on the principles of openness and transparency with the intent of addressing weaknesses within the system, while giving the contributor an opportunity to report incidents of illegal or criminal activity without fear of reproach.

With the official launch of 'e-voice', stakeholders are invited to visit the website and follow the simple instructions to submit suggestions or make reports that may lead to the transformation of the Authority.

The launch of the governance initiatives was attended by a broad cross section of the business community and the recognised Unions.



Perry Carr, a Waterworks Craftsman III with WASA, receives a token from Minister Abdul-Hamid.

The partners in the transformation are all smiles following the Launch. From left: Dr. Andre Vincent Henry, Chairman of WASA's Human Resource Committee, the Honourable Mustapha Abdul-Hamid, Minister of Public Utilities, PSA President, Jennifer Baptiste-Primus, Mr. James Lambert President of the NUGFW and WASA's Chairman, Dr. Shafeek G.A. Sultan-Khan.



Fat Kurma

INGREDIENTS

- 2 kg flour
- 500 gm butter/margarine
- 1 tin condensed milk
- 1 tin evaporated milk and 1 tin of water mixed
- Ground spices to taste - cinnamon, elaichi (cardamom) and clove
- 6 tablespoons finely grated ginger (or as desired)
- Oil for frying
- 1 kg granulated sugar (plus 1 cup)

METHOD

1. Mix flour and margarine completely until it looks like fine breadcrumbs.
2. Add half the tin of condensed milk, half the ginger and the evaporated milk and water and mix well.
3. Knead the dough until it is smooth.
4. Separate the dough into 4 balls and knead again to a smooth surface and allow to rest.
5. Put oil to heat in a heavy pot.
6. Roll out a ball to 1 1/2" thick and cut into 1 1/2" strips. Roll these strips slightly into ropes, and cut at an angle into 1 1/2" pieces. Alternatively, don't roll into a rope but cut the strips, turning/twisting the strip after each cut.
7. Fry the pieces in batches until golden brown. Repeat for each ball.
8. Leave the kurma in a large basin to cool and continue until all the balls are fried as directed above.

FUN PAGE

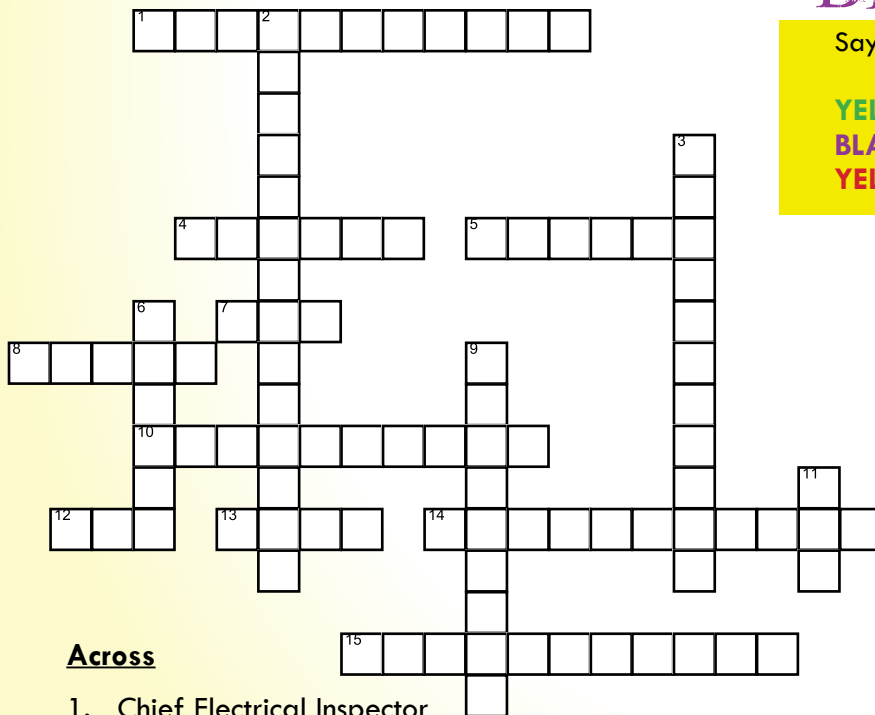


9. Divide the unsugared Kurma into 2 or 3 basins and have sturdy spoons for mixing.

For the Paag (Sugar Syrup):

10. Put sugar and one cup of water to boil in a large pot with the remaining ginger until the sugar mixture spins a thread when dropping from a spoon.
11. At this stage add the remaining half tin of condensed milk and boil again until the mixture spins a thread.
12. Divide this mixture equally between the basins and stir continuously until the kurma is evenly coated. You'll need help to mix all kurma at the same time or the paag will harden. Unless you just keep the kurma in one large basin and turn it all at the same time.
13. Transfer to another bowl or tray to spread out a bit so that the kurma doesn't clump together.

CROSSWORD



Across

1. Chief Electrical Inspector
4. Where is MET Service located?
5. Responsible for Waste Management
7. What corporate body is responsible for regulating utility service providers in T&T?
8. Agency in charge of electricity
10. What is our Minister's Surname?
12. No. of Female Electrical Inspectors
13. Agency responsible for Water
14. Programme Coordinator, NSDP
15. Director of Human Resource

Down

2. Accounting Executive I
3. DPS of Public Utilities
6. Permanent Secretary's Gender
9. What street is the new Building located?
11. Number of Agencies

BRAIN TEASER

Say the color not the word in 5 seconds go

YELLOW
BLACK
YELLOW

BLUE
RED
PURPLE

ORANGE
GREEN
RED



Oxford Word Challenge

In puzzle the below, try to find the eight-letter words which can be made from the letters of the sets of three words.

Example: Soon, sun, toil
Answer: Solution.

1. Riot, rite, tone. -
2. Agent, gnat, stage. -
3. Filth, hot, tool. -
4. Gone, nuts, rote. -
5. Lids, new, rind. -
6. Rim, sty, tins. -
7. Lies, stone, tonsil. -
8. Quit, tone, unit. -
9. Emit, lime, stern. -
10. Ale, lake, link. -



MPU WEBSITE

Work is in progress for the development of the MPU website, which is expected to go live before the end of this year. Proudfoot Communications Ltd. has been contracted to design and develop the website, and the company is working with the Ministry's website team to develop the site. The team comprises staff from the Business Services, IT and Communications Units, and the Ministry's New Systems Facilitator.

The layout, as shown at left, has been finalized, and the Ministry's website team is now reviewing the content that has been loaded onto the site.

What can surfers expect to see on the MPU website? They will be provided with information on the services that are provided by the Ministry of Public Utilities, its Agencies and Divisions, its capital and recurrent programmes, contact information for key personnel in the Ministry, and Forms related to the services of the Ministry.



COMING SOON

**MPU RETIREMENT
FUNCTION**



**INTER-AGENCY
FOOTBALL MATCH**

CHILDREN CHRISTMAS TREAT

MPU END OF YEAR FUNCTION