



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Local Government

**A Statement by Senator, the Honourable Hazel Manning
Minister of Local Government**

**The Proposal for the Development of Port-of-Spain
Phase 1 – Central Business District**

Thursday May 15, 2008

Cabinet approved a proposal for the development of the Central Business District (CBD) of the city of Port-of-Spain, with particular emphasis on Security and Rehabilitation Works.

In alignment with the Trinidad and Tobago Government's Vision 20/20 and the developmental goals therein, the Port-of-Spain Corporation (POSC) conducted a review of the physical appearance of the city, determining that it required urgent improvements.

Among the areas that needed almost immediate attention were:

- Garbage collection and/or disposal practices
- The high incidence of Littering
- The challenge of Street-dwellers or the socially displaced.

The Port-of-Spain Corporation subsequently initiated two stakeholder meetings at which four (4) priority areas were established. They were:

1. Waste Management
2. Socially Displaced Individuals
3. Security and

4. Rehabilitation Works (This involved repairing pavements, store-fronts and drains.)

Projects were subsequently identified and Cabinet approved initiatives for both Waste Management and Socially Displaced individuals.

I am pleased to say that approvals were granted for projects that were envisioned by the Port-of-Spain Corporation for an expanded Central Business District, as outlined in the Port-of-Spain Land Use Plan. The area in question is bounded on the North by Park Street; South by Wrightson Road and the Beetham Highway; East by Picadilly Street and the St. Ann's River; and West by Richmond and Charles Streets.

In essence, the recommendations that were subsequently agreed to regarding the Central Business District are as follows:

- i. The implementation of an efficient security programme inclusive of a surveillance and management system for the CBD;
- ii. The hiring of Urban Design Consultants to liaise with the POSC in developing a programme of work to rehabilitate the streets of the CBD to include the following;
 - a. Land survey and condition assessment;
 - b. Traffic management and improvement;
 - c. Refurbishment works to footpaths, curbs and slipper drains;
 - d. The identification and possible acquisition of areas that could accommodate small short term vending in public spaces; and
 - e. New lighting (street and buildings) at particular locations.

- iii. The hiring of Urban Management and Implementation Consultants to liaise with the Urban Design Consultant on behalf of the POSC to review proposals and specific deliverables, as well as assist in the development of a Sustainable Management Plan for the CBD.

- iv. The development of public education programmes to sensitize the burgesses/residents/transient population on the importance of maintaining a clean and safe environment.
 - a) The establishment of an Oversight Committee, to guide the process. Representatives from the Ministries of Local Government, Works and Transport, Planning, Housing and the Environment, National Security, Social Development and Tourism, as well as East POS Development Company, SWMCOL, and DOMA comprise the committee. It will function for the period April 2008 to April 2009.

The estimated cost of the proposed activities and projects is TTD 30M.

These developmental works and management plans constitute an important stage in the collective endeavours of the Ministry of Local Government (which has oversight responsibility for the Local Government Bodies) and the Corporation.

In the spirit of our current thrust towards Local Government Reform, our primary goal is to restore and enhance the beauty of our nation's capital. This will undoubtedly build civic pride, as we strive to put measures in place for a safe and secure place in which to live, raise families, work, pursue leisure activities or do business.

Thank you.