

## MPA's progress shared at Town-hall

*For immediate release:* The Ministry of Public Administration held its annual Town-hall at the Queen's Hall, St Ann's, Trinidad on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, to share milestones, challenges and the way forward in alignment with the Strategic Plan, Co-creating the Future 2023-2025.

After a high-energy call-to-action from each representative of the seventeen MPA divisions, Senator the Honourable Allyson West, Minister of Public Administration and Permanent Secretary (Ag.) Abigail Bynoe shared the highlights and Road Map towards accomplishing the Ministry's Vision of being the trusted and recognised leader of public service excellence.

Charged with the modernisation of the Public Service, some of the key projects shared with close to 250 staff members included the roll-out of the Remote Work Policy in the Civil Service, the E-Human Resource Management System, the inter-ministerial Change Management initiative, Digitalisation of divisions, Property and Real Estate Service Division (PRESD) Online services and the development of Administrative centres, among others.

Some of the key initiatives being developed by the MPA 2023-2025 include:

- Remote Work Policy for the Civil Service – the proponent, The University of the West Indies Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business (ALJGSB), was selected in October 2023 and final negotiations are currently underway.
- SHRM Council: a national Strategic Human Resource Management (SHRM) Council which comprises the Ministry of Public Administration, Personnel Department and Service Commissions Department. The Council is focused on ensuring alignment of HRM across the Public Sector and providing the strategic and policy direction for a more coordinated and effective HRM function.

- The E-Human Resource Management System which will enable enhanced review of performance management, succession planning, compensation and benefits, Information Systems, HR Data and Analytics.
- The Change Management Programme for the Public Service which was launched in 2023 with six (6) pilot Ministries taking part in the initial cohort. A second cohort is currently enrolled.
- The Public Service Academy (PSA) modernisation and expansion programme will ensure enhanced, timely, engaging training and development throughout the public service.
- Property and Real Estate Services Division (PRESD) Restructuring
  - (i) Launch of PRESD Portal – an innovative online service launched in December 2022 for property owners and landlords to list properties for selection by Ministries, Departments and Agencies.
  - (ii) Ongoing Stakeholder Engagement – the Association of Real Estate Agents of Trinidad and Tobago (AREA TT) has ensured timely feedback to inform the process.
  - (iii) Management of Prime Real Estate Offices – ensuring that storage facilities are maximised and located on cost-effective industrial/suburban locations.
  - (iv) Negotiated Rates: a policy of ensuring the best rate is gained from the landlord/property owner.
  - (v) A policy to reduce corporate Rentals/Leases by increasing the Construction of Government-owned Buildings:
    - Ministry of Health, POS (completed 2023)
    - Ministry of Housing, POS (underway)
    - Ministry of Social Development and Family Services (POS) (planning phase)
    - Administrative Hub/Centre Point Fortin (planning phase)
    - Administrative Hub/Centre Arima (planning phase)

Staff were then invited to engage in the Question and Answer session which was moderated by Tiffany Hercules-Jerome. In closing, the Master of Ceremonies, Joel London, invited Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ray McCarthy to give the closing remarks.