Head 65: Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

Total Allocation - $278,047,930.00

A summary of the Ministry’s Expenditure, Divisions and Projects. Financial Scrutiny Unit, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad
Publication

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About this Guide

This guide provides a summary of expenditure for the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs for the period 2015-2020. It provides the Members of Parliament and stakeholders with an overview of the Ministry’s responsibilities. The primary purpose of this guide is to consolidate the information contained within the various Budget Documents pertaining to the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs and provide readers with an analysis of same. This guide is based primarily on:

- the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure;
- the Draft Estimates of Development Programme;
- the Public Sector Investment Programme; and
- the Auditor General’s Report on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the fiscal year 2018.
Ministry Overview

The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs strives to be a “service-driven, results-oriented organisation, which, through effective engagement at home and representation abroad, will act as a central channel by which the national interests and national development of Trinidad and Tobago are achieved.”

The Ministry prioritizes the following missions, namely:

- The Economic Mission which focuses on energy, trade, investment, tourism, science and technology, culture and agriculture;
- The Security Mission which focuses on ensuring national and human security;
- The Consular Mission which emphasises services to nationals at home and to the diaspora;
- The Political Mission which utilizes public and international diplomacy to ensure respect and leadership; and
- The Mission related to international law.

As the external arm of the Government, it directs the country’s foreign relations with other states and international entities mainly through diplomatic initiatives and representation. The foreign policy of Trinidad and Tobago is pursued through the activities of the Ministry’s Headquarters, its eighteen (18) Missions and its Honorary Consuls. The Ministry aims to expand and intensify the country’s relations through bilateral and multilateral initiatives by seeking environments that are conducive to trade, tourism and investment for Trinidad and Tobago.

The Ministry provides a myriad of services, which include protocol and consular activities, to its diverse clientele. Clients include the Offices of the President and Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago; Government Ministries and other Government Agencies; Foreign Governments; Diplomatic Missions accredited to and resident in Trinidad and Tobago; Members of the Local Diplomatic Corps;

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1 Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, website; Accessed on August 19, 2019: https://foreign.gov.tt/about/ministry/about/
International Organisations; the Private Sector; Civil Society and Nationals and Non-nationals of Trinidad and Tobago, both at home and abroad.

**Minister:** Senator the Honourable Dennis Moses

**Accounting Officer:** Ms. Reita Toussaint

**Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.):** Mr. Tedwin Herbert
Key Statements from 2018 Standing Finance Committee Debate

During the Standing Finance Committee debate of 2018, the following statement was made in relation to the emphasis of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs for fiscal year 2018/2019:

“In seeking to safeguard the country’s position on the world stage and, indeed, to lift the profile in developing arenas and spheres globally, the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs has been mindful of the country’s challenging economic circumstance and, by extension, financially constrained operating environment. The Ministry has exercised prudent management of funds during the last fiscal year and will retain such an approach into the 2018/2019 fiscal year.”

“…the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs has undertaken an assessment of its activities and will make adjustments as appropriate and where necessary to ensure continued proper and prudent financial management while delivering required services and support to stakeholders in the various jurisdictions in which it serves.”

- Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs

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The Ministry’s total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2016 to 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>$266,147,076.00</td>
<td>$56,573,913,053.00</td>
<td>0.47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>$259,333,594.00</td>
<td>$54,883,153,410.00</td>
<td>0.48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>$240,944,123.00</td>
<td>$54,211,726,813.00</td>
<td>0.44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>$197,653,200.00</td>
<td>$54,149,378,860.00</td>
<td>0.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>$273,047,930.00</td>
<td>$58,058,338,392.00</td>
<td>0.47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Total allocation for the Ministry as a percentage of the National Budget illustrated an increase in the allocation to the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs by 0.1% between the period 2018/2019 and 2019/2020.

[1] For the Fiscal Years 2016-2018, actual figures were used to calculate the total allocation. However, estimates were used to calculate the total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2019 and 2020.
[2] Total Allocation for the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs= Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund
The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs aims to expand and intensify the country’s relations through bilateral and multilateral initiatives by seeking environments that are conducive to trade, tourism and investment for Trinidad and Tobago. This is pursued through the activities of the Ministry’s Headquarters, and 18 Missions and Honorary Consuls. Work progressed on the Re-establishment of a High Commission in Guyana project as several potential properties were visited. Work on the Ministry’s new Strategic Plan 2019-2021 under the Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building project is ongoing. A review of the Ministry’s staff structure is essential to developing medium to long term training plans. In order to achieve this, the Public Service Academy was requested to provide a list of training providers. Potential providers were contacted to submit proposals which are currently being evaluated. Additionally, to maximize the contribution to increasing investment and economic growth in the national economy, the Ministry continued work on the Draft Development of a National Diaspora Policy. The policy aims to:

- Preserve the rights and interests of members of Trinidad and Tobago’s diaspora;
- Strengthen diaspora participation;
- Improve engagement with the Diaspora in the areas of Investment, Trade and Tourism;
- Promote cultural values and image building;
- Drive the development of the philanthropic and development association;
- Enhance knowledge and technology transfer; and
- Further encourage remittances.

A stakeholder mapping exercise was undertaken in partnership with a Diaspora Consultant with an expenditure of $26,000.00. The engagement sessions of the exercise is ongoing.

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During fiscal 2018/2019, it was necessary to have a Supplementation of Appropriation of resources to fund urgent and critical Recurrent and Capital Expenditure in areas where insufficient or no allocation was provided. The source of these additional funds was the Consolidated Fund. The following statement was made by the Minister of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs during the Standing Finance Committee debate on the Consideration of Proposals for the Supplementation of Appropriation for the fiscal year 2019:

“During the first half of the financial year 2018 – 2019, the Ministry has utilized funds allocated and released to undertake relevant activities in the field of the Ministry and with respect to ensuring the proper operation of Trinidad and Tobago’s diplomatic missions. With specific reference to these missions it was determined that certain repairs to flagship missions were required. The funds to be allocated for this exercise will address these needs to ensure adequate and appropriate support for the work of the Government in the jurisdictions of Washington DC and London. It is the intention that the repairs to the Chancery in Washington DC will ensure adherence to building code requirements for the jurisdiction, as well as standards required for disabled access including an elevator. Similarly, Madam Chair, in London it is the intention to undertake the necessary repair to the Chancery to maintain integrity of the building as well as the image of Trinidad and Tobago. Pressing transport needs will be addressed by the purchase of vehicles as well. It is anticipated that the supplementary funds will address these issues. Thank you, Madam Chair.”

The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs requested and was granted the following supplementations:

**Recurrent Expenditure - $1,580,000**

- 03/002/01 – Vehicles - $1,580,000

  The sum is required to procure vehicles for the Embassy in Washington and the High Commission in London.

**Capital Expenditure - $4,420,000**

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• 09/005/06/F/004 – Refurbishment of Chancery, Embassy in Washington - $2,600,000
   The sum is required to refurbish the Embassy in Washington.

• 09/005/06/F/064 – Refurbishment of the Chancery of the High Commission in London - $1,820,000
   The sum is required to refurbish the Office of the High Commission in London.
Where the Ministry spends its money

2019-2020 Estimates of Expenditure

The budget allocation of $278,047,930.00 for the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of $271,047,930.00;
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme in the sum of $7,000,000.00:
  - Consolidated Fund in the sum of $2,000,000.00; and
  - Infrastructure Development Fund in the sum of $5,000,000.00.

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

- 01 Personnel Expenditure – $97,883,000.00;
- 02 Goods and Services – $110,745,971.00;
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases – $411,500.00; and
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies – $62,007,459.00

Percentage Allocation of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs is as follows:

- Total allocation as a percentage of National Budget = 0.47%;
- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is 0.49%;
- Consolidated Fund as a percentage of the total Consolidated Fund allocation is 0.08%; and
- Infrastructure Development Fund as a percentage of the total Infrastructure Development Fund is 0.19%.

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8Head 18 – Ministry of Finance, Sub-Head 04 – Current Transfers and Subsidies, Sub-Item 11- Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) (Infrastructure Development Fund allocation is part of the Ministry of Finance allocation for the financial year. Therefore, the total recurrent expenditure for the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs does not include IDF funding.
### Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2014-2020

<table>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>01 Personnel Expenditure</strong></td>
<td>$107,791,155.00</td>
<td>$114,066,553.00</td>
<td>$85,588,510.00</td>
<td>$88,360,747.00</td>
<td>$85,653,202.00</td>
<td>$81,916,500.00</td>
<td>$97,883,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>02 Goods and Services</strong></td>
<td>$173,401,742.00</td>
<td>$161,123,660.00</td>
<td>$123,488,353.00</td>
<td>$113,075,493.00</td>
<td>$99,227,141.00</td>
<td>$79,851,100.00</td>
<td>$110,745,971.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>03 Minor Equipment Purchases</strong></td>
<td>$3,319,335.00</td>
<td>$2,250,160.00</td>
<td>$724,363.00</td>
<td>$562,087.00</td>
<td>$283,004.00</td>
<td>$184,700.00</td>
<td>$411,500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>04 Current Transfers and Subsidies</strong></td>
<td>$74,861,705.00</td>
<td>$75,839,295.00</td>
<td>$55,154,550.00</td>
<td>$52,677,245.00</td>
<td>$52,982,300.00</td>
<td>$34,454,900.00</td>
<td>$62,007,459.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>$359,373,937.00</td>
<td>$353,279,668.00</td>
<td>$264,955,776.00</td>
<td>$254,675,572.00</td>
<td>$238,145,647.00</td>
<td>$196,407,200.00</td>
<td>$271,047,930.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2016 Actual

- Personnel Expenditure: 47%
- Goods and Services: 32%
- Minor Equipment Purchases: 0%
- Current Transfer and Subsidies: 21%

2017 Actual

- Personnel Expenditure: 44%
- Goods and Services: 35%
- Minor Equipment Purchases: 0%
- Current Transfer and Subsidies: 21%
2020 Estimate

Personnel Expenditure: 41%
Goods and Services: 36%
Minor Equipment Purchases: 23%
Current Transfer and Subsidies: 0%
The allocation of staff expenditure for the year 2019/2020 was $112,415,000.00 which represents an increase of approximately 24% from the last fiscal year 2018/2019. The diagram below provides a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2017-2020.

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Analysis of Recurrent Expenditure

Recurrent Expenditure refers to the payments for expenses which are incurred during the day-to-day operations of the Ministry for Personnel Expenditure, Goods and Services, Minor Equipment Purchases and Current Transfers and Subsidies.

- Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2019/2020 is **$271,047,930.00**.

- Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2018/2019 was **$196,407,200.00**. Comparing this figure with Fiscal Year 2018/2019, there is an increase of **$74,640,730.00** or **38%**.

- The largest portion of the recurrent allocation has consistently gone to Sub-Head 02 Goods and Services. This figure has been fluctuating over the period 2013-2019, accounting for approximately **41%** of total funding for the Ministry for fiscal year 2019/2020 for the day to day operations of the Ministry.

- In 2020, Personnel Expenditure’s estimate of **$97,883,000.00** was **36%** of the Ministry’s total recurrent allocation.

- Minor Equipment Purchases received the lowest portion of the total recurrent allocation for the Ministry over the period 2014 to 2019 with an average of **20.8%**.

- Current Transfers and Subsidies has consistently received the third largest portion of the allocation and has been increasing over the period 2017 - 2019. There was an overall increase in the allocation of **$27,552,559.00** or **80%** over the aforementioned period.

- The total allocation has been fluctuating over the period with a high of **$359,373,937.00** in the fiscal year 2014 to and a low of **$196,407,200.00** in fiscal year 2019.
Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2014 - 2020

Development Programme is capital expenditure aimed at improving and enhancing development in different areas of Trinidad and Tobago which includes; human resources, economic and social development.

The Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP), which represents the capital expenditure component of the National Budget, is the instrument used by Government to effect its vision and policies. It is a budgeting and strategic planning tool made up of projects and programmes, designed to realise the goals set out in the Government’s overarching policy.

The PSIP budget document provides a detailed description of the programmes and projects and includes a review of the implementation of projects and programmes in the previous financial year and highlights the major projects and programmes to be implemented in the upcoming financial year. The Public Sector Investment Programme is intended to achieve:

- the country’s social and economic development goals; and
- enhance the quality of life of all citizens.

The allocation of $7,000,000.00 for development programmes and projects for fiscal year 2019/2020 are presented in two parts as follows:

- Funds appropriated by Parliament and disbursed directly from the Consolidated Fund which represents 28.6% of the total allocation for development programmes; and
- Funds disbursed from the Infrastructure Development Fund represents 71.4% of the total allocation for development programmes.

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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Consolidated Fund</td>
<td>17,120,188</td>
<td>19,871,923</td>
<td>1,191,300</td>
<td>4,658,022</td>
<td>2,798,476</td>
<td>1,246,000</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Infrastructure Development Fund</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>17,120,188</td>
<td>19,871,923</td>
<td>1,191,300</td>
<td>4,658,022</td>
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<td>7,000,000</td>
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</table>

Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the Period 2014-2019
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The PSIP budget document provides a detailed description of the programmes and projects and includes a review of the implementation of projects and programmes in the previous financial year and highlights the major projects and programmes to be implemented in the upcoming financial year. The Public Sector Investment Programme is intended to achieve:

- the country’s social and economic development goals; and
- enhance the quality of life of all citizens.

Vision 2030 states that Trinidad and Tobago's foreign policy must be based on the pursuit of its national development agenda, namely, promoting sustainable development, peace and citizen security. Therefore Government seeks to maintain, develop and enhance relations with strategic countries at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels and to participate actively in the multilateral arena. The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs (MFCA) directs the country’s foreign relations with other states and international entities mainly through diplomatic initiatives and representation.

**Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building Programme**

In an effort to expand and strengthen the MFCA’s staff at Headquarters and Overseas Missions, continued focus will be placed on the implementation of Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building initiatives in fiscal 2020. The sum of $0.5 million will be allocated for implementation of the following three (3) initiatives:

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• **Foreign Service Strengthening Initiative** – to narrow and close gaps in the institutional capacity of staff for the execution of duty in the dynamic world of regional, hemispheric and global diplomacy. Training will be conducted in areas including Foreign Service Regulatory Framework, security awareness and representational duties;

• **Re-organisation of the MFCA** – review of the structure and staffing of the Headquarters and Overseas Missions to ensure that there is adequate staff with the appropriate human resources; and

• **Development of Standardised Policy Guidelines for Headquarters and Overseas Missions** – creation of a Policy and Procedure Manual of operations for Headquarters and Overseas Missions to ensure standardisation of the policies, systems, functions and procedures.

**Establishment of an Embassy in Doha, Qatar**
Government has taken the decision to establish an Embassy in Doha, Qatar. Funding in the sum of $1.5 million will be allocated in fiscal 2020, for a site visit to Qatar by a research and advance team, identification of a building and initial retention of office space for the Embassy and for administrative arrangements necessary for the establishment of the Mission.

**Relocation of the Ministry of Foreign and Caricom Affairs**
As the diplomatic centre for government services, the MFCA provides a myriad of services to a diverse clientele, which include Foreign Governments and Diplomatic Missions. To facilitate improved service delivery in the execution of its mandate, funds in the amount of $5.0 million will be allocated for the relocation of the Ministry’s Headquarters at St. Clair, Port of Spain in fiscal 2020.
## Noteworthy Development Programme Estimates in 2019-2020

The table below lists the projects that have been noted due to uncharacteristic variances in estimates for funding:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project - Item</th>
<th>2019 Estimate</th>
<th>2019 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2020 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IDF- 005-06-F-001 Relocation of Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Configuration and Outfitting of New Offices</td>
<td>2,000,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-F-066 Establishment of an Embassy in Qatar (New Project)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2016 - 2017

The following new projects that received funding in the 2016/2017 financial year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project - Item</th>
<th>2017 Actual</th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2020 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-F-058 Establishment of a New Embassy and Trade Office in the UAE</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-F-060 Re-establishment of a High Commission in Barbados</td>
<td>30,658</td>
<td>1,156</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2017-2018

The following new projects that received funding in the 2017/2018 financial year:\(^{14}\):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project/Programme</th>
<th>2018 Actual</th>
<th>2019 Revised Estimate</th>
<th>2020 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>005-06-A-019 Establishment of a National Diaspora Unit</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## New Projects from the Financial Year 2019– 2020

The following new projects that received funding in the 2019/2020 financial year:\(^{15}\):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project -Item</th>
<th>2020 Estimate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CF-005-06-F-066 Establishment of an Embassy in Qatar</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inquiry</th>
<th>Ministerial Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries to the First Report of the Joint Select Committee on Foreign Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Trade and Industry to the First Report of the Joint Select Committee on Foreign Affairs</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs to the First Report of the Joint Select Committee on Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Foreign Affairs on an Inquiry into Regional Integration and the Strengthening of the CARICOM Institution</strong></td>
<td>• Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries to the Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs to the Second Report of the Joint Select Committee on Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third Report of the Joint Select Committee on Foreign Affairs on the Circumstances surrounding Trinidad and Tobago’s vote at the Permanent Council, Organisation of American States (OAS) on the Request by the Government of the Commonwealth of Dominica for a waiver of its contribution to the annual budget of the OAS on March 23, 2018</td>
<td>Ministerial Response of the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs to the Third Report of the Joint Select Committee on Foreign Affairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
General Useful Information

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, SINGAPORE: https://www.mfa.gov.sg/content/mfa/index.html
- Ministry of External Affairs, INDIA: http://www.mea.gov.in/
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, NIGERIA: http://www.foreignaffairs.gov.ng/
- U.S. Department of State, USA: http://www.state.gov/aboutstate/
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade of Barbados: https://www.foreign.gov.bb/