



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

**MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**RDLG: 7/17/4 Vol III**

29<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Mr. Brian Caesar  
Clerk of the House  
Office of the Parliament  
Parliamentary Complex  
Cabildo Building  
St. Vincent Street  
Port of Spain

Dear Mr. Caesar,

**The Seventeenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee on an examination of the Management and Operations of the Secondary Road Rehabilitation and Improvement Company Limited (SRRIC)**

Reference is made to your correspondence, Parl.:5/6/28, dated 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023 on the above captioned subject.

In that regard, please find attached as requested, the Ministry's responses to the recommendations contained in the Report.

The Ministry trusts that its input would facilitate the work of the Committee and the overall efforts to improve the level of efficiency, collaboration and coordination of efforts across all relevant Ministries/Agencies going forward.

Respectfully

*Permanent Secretary (Ag)*  
**Permanent Secretary**  
**Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government**

**Permanent Secretary**  
**Ministry of Rural Development**  
**and Local Government**

cc Ms. Khisha Peterkin, Secretary, Public Administration and Appropriations Committee

**Response to Recommendations of the Seventeenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriation Committee on an examination of the Management and Operations of the Secondary Road Rehabilitation and Improvement Company Limited (SRRIC)**

Page Reference	ISSUES, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS	MINISTRY'S RESPONSES
Page 12.	<p><b>1. Autonomy of SRRIC</b></p> <p>iii. The process of project selection</p> <p>SRRIC does not approve any requests for road repairs. Based on SRRIC's workflow process, the MOWT approves all requests and then forward the approved work programme/s for SRRIC's execution. The MOWT indicated that it adopted the same procedure that was utilised by the MRDLG whereby:</p> <p>a. A Local Government Councillor submits a prioritised list of roads for repairs to their Municipal Corporation based on their observations of the state of major secondary roads in their respective burgesses.</p> <p>b. The 14 Municipal Corporations collate, review, and submit a list of proposed road repairs to the MRDLG.</p> <p>c. The MRDLG in turn, collates and reviews all 14 lists and create a single priority listing for submission to the MOWT, where the list would be reviewed for duplication against the MOWT's own programme of works.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The MRDLG should submit a collated list of roads for repair directly to SRRIC given that the MRDLG was the "client ministry" according to Section 2.2.5 of the State Enterprises Performance Monitoring Manual (SEPMM).</b></li> <li>• The MOWT should conduct a national road classification exercise to clearly define and classify each road that constitutes the national road network. A status update on the implementation of this initiative should be submitted to the Parliament by January 29, 2024,</li> <li>• The MOWT should submit a status update to the Parliament by January 29, 2024, on what the technical sharing of competencies and resources between PURE and SRRIC would entail.</li> <li>• The MOWT should a report to the Parliament by January 29,</li> </ul>	<p>The MRDLG will submit its collated list of road repairs as recommended by the committee. This will be a more seamless process that will prevent a duplication of efforts since Secondary Roads are vested under the 14 Municipal Corporations that report to Head Office, MRDLG.</p>

**Response to Recommendations of the Seventeenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriation Committee on an examination of the Management and Operations of the Secondary Road Rehabilitation and Improvement Company Limited (SRRIC)**

Page Reference	ISSUES, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS	MINISTRY'S RESPONSES
Page 13-14	<p>d. Lastly, the list is submitted to SRRIC, where the SRRIC would undertake the scope of works and budgetary calculations prior to sending out submissions for tender. SRRIC indicated that, as SRRIC matures as a state enterprise, SRRIC's aim would be to review and manage requests directly from the 14 Municipal Corporations.</p> <p>SRRIC added that a documented process would be implemented to ensure an equitable distribution along the lines of spending and projects in the 14 Corporations to prevent geographical discrimination.</p>	<p>2024 on the actions to be taken to ensure there was no operational overlap between SRRIC and the MOWT's PURE Unit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The MOWT should submit an update to Parliament by January 29, 2024, on the guidelines that would be implemented to ensure SRRIC's autonomy was maintained with specific reference to the limited interference of the MOWT in the approval process of SRRIC's list of roads for repair.</li> <li>• <b>The MRDLG and MOWT should submit a report to Parliament by January 29, 2024, outlining each Ministry's process of collating and reviewing proposed lists of road works, and the considerations made when determining an order of priority prior to transferring the final approved list of road repairs to SRRIC.</b></li> </ul>	<p>The MRDLG collates its proposed list of road works in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Complaints from the public</li> <li>- Submissions through letters from Members of Parliament and the Municipal Corporations</li> </ul> <p>Priority is determined based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Number of persons affected</li> <li>- Alternative routes available</li> <li>- Extent of deterioration</li> <li>- Stakeholder impact</li> <li>- Corporation urgency</li> </ul>

**Response to Recommendations of the Seventeenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriation Committee on an examination of the Management and Operations of the Secondary Road Rehabilitation and Improvement Company Limited (SRRIC)**

Page Reference	ISSUES, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS	MINISTRY'S RESPONSES
Page 15	<p><b>3. The Lack of prequalified contractors on the Office of Procurement Regulator's Procurement Depository.</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The SRRIC should submit a status update to Parliament by January 29, 2024, on the development and implementation of a documented process to ensure an equitable distribution along the lines of spending and projects across the 14 Municipal Corporations to prevent geographical discrimination.</li> <li>• <b>The SRRIC, in collaboration with the OPR, MRDLG and TTCA should commence a pre-qualification campaign that targets small and medium sized contractors.</b> The pre-qualification campaign should focus on informing contractors on:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o why they need to be prequalified;</li> <li>o the benefits of being pre-qualified;</li> <li>and o what needs to be done to complete the pre-qualification process.</li> </ul>               SRRIC should report to Parliament on the             </li> </ul>	SRRIC to respond

**Response to Recommendations of the Seventeenth Report of the Public Administration and Appropriation Committee on an examination of the Management and Operations of the Secondary Road Rehabilitation and Improvement Company Limited (SRRIC)**

Page Reference	ISSUES, OBSERVATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	RECOMMENDATIONS	MINISTRY'S RESPONSES
Page 20	<p><b>8. Creation of National Standards for Road Design and Road Repairs.</b></p>	<p>implementation of this initiative by January 29, 2024</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The MOWT and MRDLG should engage the TTBS for the development of national standards for road design, construction, and repair and report to Parliament on the execution of this initiative by January 29, 2024.</b></li> <li>• <b>The MOWT and MRDLG should collaborate on the development of an enforcement system to ensure road design, construction and repair works conducted by contractors adhere to existing standards and report to Parliament on the execution of this initiative by January 29, 2024.</b></li> </ul>	<p>MRDLG agree with this recommendation and will be communicating with the MOWT and the TTBS to commence discussions for the development of a national standard for road design, construction and road repairs.</p> <p>MRDLG agree with this recommendation and will be communicating with the MOWT to commence discussions on the development of an enforcement system to ensure road design, construction and road repair works.</p>