

Response of the Ministry of Youth Development and National Service on the 5th Report of the Joint Select Committee on Human Rights, Equality and Diversity on an Examination of the Implementation of the Recommendations of the Report by the Independent Investigation Team appointed by the Cabinet of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to Investigate Reports of Child Abuse at Children's Homes

Recommendation LXXI

The Committee recommends that the MYDNS give extra priority to the development of additional Transition Homes to build on the progress to date in the development of Hostels as recommended by the Investigation Team appointed by the Cabinet of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago to Investigate Reports of Child Abuse at Children's Homes.

Comments of the MYDNS

The Ministry of Youth Development and National Service (MYDNS) is in support of the recommendation of the Joint Select Committee on Human Right, Equality & Diversity that the Ministry give extra priority to the development of additional Transition Homes to build on the progress to date in the development of Hostels as recommended by the Investigation Team.

Since its establishment in 2020 the MYDNS has embarked on a concerted effort to increase its suite of Transition Homes as well as engaged refurbishment and upgrades works at its National Male Transition Home in Ste. Madeline towards increasing its residential capacity to provide transitional services for young people.

These facilities will cater to single gender occupancy and target young men and women who were wards of the state and left Alternative Care at the age of eighteen (18). Through a two-year programme comprising accommodation and other wraparound social services young people will be empowered to transition successfully into adulthood by equipping them with the necessary skills and tools needed to become independent, healthy and productive individuals.

A detailed Developmental/Care Plan is designed for each resident as well as a Mentor, and a Case Manager is assigned to each resident. Additional services such as health care and job placement are facilitated by other Government Agencies and the private sector. Residents also receive a monthly stipend of \$1000.00 for personal care items. Table 1 hereunder illustrates the MYDNS efforts to date towards satisfying the need for Transition Homes.

Table 1- Transition Homes

Facility Name	Location	Management and Operations
Josephine Shaw House for Young Women	No.131-133 Henry Street, Port of Spain	This transition home is a newly constructed single gender facility for females. A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) between the MYDNS and the Salvation Army Trinidad and Tobago Division for the Management and Operation of the Josephine Shaw House for Young Women.

Facility Name	Location	Management and Operations
		is to be executed by September 2023 for commencement of operations at this facility. When operationalised this facility will accommodate a total of twenty-five (25) female residents inclusive of accommodations for two differently abled residents.
National Male Transition Home	No.18 Archie Drive, St. Madeline	On the 16th of October 2020, the National Male Transition Home was officially transferred from the Office of the Prime Minister (Gender and Child Affairs) to the MYDNS. The capacity of the facility when transferred to the MYDNS was eleven (11) residents. Cabinet by Minute No. 1818 of November 3, 2021 agreed, inter alia, to the refurbishment and upgrade works at the National Male Transition Home. Works are estimated to be complete by July 31, 2023 at which time the facility will be able to facilitate a maximum of twenty-eight (28) male residents.
Sevilla Transition Home for Young Female	Sevilla Compound, Couva	Cabinet by Minute No. 2136 of December 22, 2021 agreed, inter alia, to the utilization of two buildings on the Sevilla Compound located in Couva for the establishment of a Transition Home for young females. Refurbishment and renovation works are expected to be complete on one of the buildings by November 31, 2023. When completed this building will accommodate sixty-four residents inclusive of four differently-abled residents.
National Service Complex Beach Camp	Beach Camp Palo Seco	Cabinet by Minute No. 1666 of October 7, 2021 agreed to the establishment of a National Service Complex by the Ministry of Youth Development and National Service at Beach Camp, Palo Seco. This Complex when completed in 2025 will accommodate male and female residents in two separate buildings on this compound.