



**MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, LAND & FISHERIES
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER**

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Ref: AGR 5/3/5 Vol. III Temp 1

April 11, 2019

Ms. Jacqui Sampson-Meiguel

Clerk of the House
Level G – 9, Tower D
The Port of Spain International Waterfront Center
1A Wrightson Road
Port of Spain

Dear Ms. Sampson Meiguel,

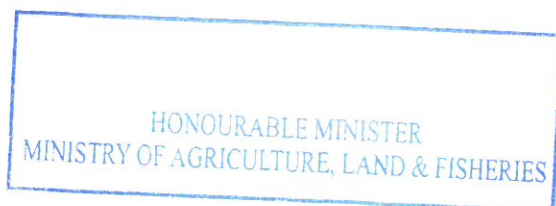
**Re: The Twentieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Examination
of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Trinidad and
Tobago for the Financial Year 2017**

Reference is made to your letter **Parl: 5\1\2** dated **February 18, 2019**.

Please find attached the response to the recommendation directed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries contained in page 36 of the 'The Twentieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Examination of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year 2017.'

Yours Faithfully,

**Senator the Honourable Clarence Rambharat
Minister**



Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries

Response to recommendation on page 36 of the '*The Twentieth Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Examination of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year 2017*'

Excerpt from page 36:

Cabinet approval was not seen for the Re-afforestation project. For the Financial year 2016/2017 the two forestry nurseries at Moruga and Ecclesville were selected to be constructed. Related expenditure totalled \$7,001,824.65. In a written submission in June 8, 2018, the Ministry indicated that they do not have a specific Cabinet approval for the Re-afforestation project and the entire Public Sector Investment Programme was approved by Cabinet for each fiscal year. However, a draft Cabinet Note is being prepared to seek approval of the Cabinet for the Project.

Recommendation: The Ministry should ensure that Cabinet approval is obtained for all projects undertaken by the Ministry.

Response:

The Re-afforestation Project was implemented by the Forestry Division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries in fiscal 2015/2016. In fiscal 2017/2018, the scope of the project was expanded to include the environmental and commercial aspects of Forestry Management and the production of teak and pine seedlings as part of a program to develop the sawmilling and woodworking industry. As a consequence, the name of the project was changed from '*Re-afforestation*' to '*Commercial Repository*'. To this end, a draft Cabinet Note has been prepared and is being reviewed to include additional elements of the project.