



PARLIAMENT  
REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Third Session of the 12<sup>th</sup> Parliament

# FINANCIAL SCRUTINY UNIT

Office of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago

## HEAD 23: OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND MINISTRY OF LEGAL AFFAIRS

**BUDGETARY ALLOCATION:  
\$395,627,940.00**

A Summary of the Ministry's Expenditure, Divisions and Projects.

## Publication

An electronic copy of this Guide can be found on the Parliament website: [www.ttparliament.org](http://www.ttparliament.org)

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## **About this Guide**

This guide provides a summary of expenditure for the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs for the period 2017-2023. It provides the Members of Parliament and their stakeholders with an overview of the Ministry's responsibilities. The primary purpose of this guide is to consolidate all of the information contained within the various Budget Documents pertaining to the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs, and provide readers with an analysis of same. This guide is based primarily on:

- the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2023;
- the Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023;
- the Public Sector Investment Programme 2023; and
- the Auditor General's Report on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the fiscal year 2021.

# Head 23: Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs

## Ministerial Overview

### The Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs' Commitment<sup>1</sup>

The Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs remain committed to the holistic development of Trinidad and Tobago through the promotion of the rule of law at all levels of society. The AGLA will carry out the responsibilities as outlined in the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago and aligned with the Government's Strategic Plan – Vision 2030 to ensure the developmental pillars of a modern legal and regulatory framework are implemented and made effective.

The protection of individual freedoms and property rights can have the greatest impact on national development. The Attorney General's Legislative Agenda advocates for those rights and tables on Parliament's floor the ideals and performance measures required in the law and justice sector to effect change at the national, regional and international level.

The AGLA resolves to create public value through the development of specialist legal services in the areas of law that are of importance to the State and simultaneously provide to You, the stakeholder, a safe and enabling environment delivered with respect, equity and integrity so as to stimulate increased productivity and greater confidence in the rule of law and in the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs.

### Core Values:

- **Integrity: Honesty**, Ethical Behaviour, Commitment and Equity
- **Professionalism:** Discipline, Courtesy, Technical Competence and Timeliness

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<sup>1</sup> Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs website, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://agla.gov.tt/home/about-agla/>

- **Confidentiality** : Mutual Respect, Trust, Privacy and Security
- **Customer-Focused** : Empathy, Compassion and Customer Satisfaction
- **Results-Oriented** : On-Time Delivery, Punctuality and Reliability

## Responsibilities<sup>2</sup>

- Alternative Dispute Resolution
- Anti-Money Laundering, Counter Financing of Terrorism and Proliferation Financing
- (AML/CFT/PF)
  - Anti-Money Terrorism Unit
  - (AML/CFT/PF) Compliance Unit
- Appointments to Quasi-Judicial Bodies
- Children's Attorney
- Constitutional Reform
- Construction of court facilities for the Judiciary
- Criminal Justice System
  - Criminal Justice Unit
  - Quicker Justice Initiative Programme
  - Reform and Transformation
- Intellectual Property
  - Copyright and Related Rights
  - Trademarks
  - Industrial Property
- International Office of Child Rights

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<sup>2</sup> : Trinidad and Tobago Gazette No. 45 of 2022 accessed on September 29, 2022 : <http://news.gov.tt/sites/default/files/E-Gazette/Gazette%202022/Gazettes/Gazette%20No.%2045%20of%202022.pdf>

- Law Reform
- Law Revision
- Legal Service Complaints
- Legislative Agenda
- National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Committee
- National Biosafety
- Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel
  - Legislative Drafting
- Office of the Chief State Solicitor
  - Administrator General
  - Conveyancing
  - Custodian of Enemy Property
  - Government Contracts
  - Legal Service
  - Provisional Liquidator
  - Provisional Receiver
  - Public Trustee/Official Receiver
- Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions
- Office of the Solicitor General
  - Civil Litigation
  - Commissioners of Affidavits
  - Justices of the Peace
  - Legal Advice to the Government
  - Liquor Licenses
  - Marriage Licenses
- Registrar General
  - Civil Registry
  - Companies Registry

- Land Registry
- Rent Restriction

**Statutory Boards and Other Bodies:**

- Central Authority
- Council of Legal Education
- Environmental Commission
- Equal Opportunity Commission
- Equal Opportunity Tribunal
- Hugh Wooding Law School
- Industrial Court
- International Law and Human Rights Unit
- Law Reform Commission
- Law Revision Commission
- Legal Aid and Advisory Authority
- Sentencing Commission
- Tax Appeal Board
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**Indirect:**

- Police Complaints Authority

**The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs:** Senator the Honourable Reginald Armour S.C.

**Minister in the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs:** Senator the Honourable Renuka Sagramsingh-Sooklall

**Permanent Secretary (Ag):** Ms. Natasha Barrow



## Departments:

### **The Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU)**

The Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) was established by the Miscellaneous Provisions (Proceeds of Crime, Anti-Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago) Act No. 20 of 2018. The Core objective of the Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) is to efficiently carry out the functions of the Attorney General pursuant to the Anti-Terrorism Act, Chap. 12:07. Primarily, the ATU implements Section 22B of the Act by making applications to the High Court for the designation of individuals and entities, both domestically and detailed on various United Nations Sanctions Lists, and the application of Targeted Financial Sanctions. The ATU also works closely with key national agencies relative to Counter Terrorism matters as well as with our international partners.<sup>3</sup>

### **The Central Authority Unit (CAU)**

The Central Authority Unit in the Ministry of the Attorney General was established under the Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters Act, 1997. This Act gives effect to the Commonwealth Scheme in Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters (the Harare Scheme) which is a non -Treaty based scheme which depends upon States enacting domestic legislation to facilitate international cooperation in criminal matters. The Central Authority Unit therefore is the designated authority responsible for executing requests for Mutual Legal Assistance. In this regard, the primary duty of the Central Authority is to satisfy itself that incoming requests can be properly executed and to ensure that all the necessary information is provided to satisfy the requirements of the Mutual Assistance in Criminal Matters Act.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs website, accessed September 29, 2022 <https://agla.gov.tt/anti-terrorism-unit/>

<sup>4</sup> Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs website, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://agla.gov.tt/central-authority-unit-cau/>

## **The Chief Parliamentary Counsel**

The Chief Parliamentary Counsel heads the Legislative Drafting Department, which plays a critical role in the implementation of Government policy. The mission of the Office is to produce technically sound legislation for client Ministries; to advise the Government on the Constitution and all legal aspects of legislation, to advise Parliament on issues relating to Parliamentary procedure and legal matters and to accomplish the foregoing competently within the framework of excellent interpersonal relationships among the staff and that of client Ministries, the Cabinet and Parliament.<sup>5</sup>

## **The Chief State Solicitor<sup>6</sup>**

The Chief State Solicitor provides legal services to other Government Ministries and Departments as well as to the members of the public. Its main functions are as follows:

- To focus on commercial and property law matters and in these areas serve both the Government and the public in the preparation of deeds and contracts for its commercial enterprises and for the engagement of consultants and other personnel
- To instruct the Solicitor General in Civil Litigation Matters

### **Legal Services provided to the public:**

- Contracts
- Conveyancing
- Administrator General
- Public Trustee
- Mental Health Applications

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<sup>5</sup> Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs website, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://agla.gov.tt/parliamentary-counsel/>

<sup>6</sup> Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs website, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://agla.gov.tt/chief-state-solicitor/>

### **The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions**

The Director of Public Prosecutions, a position created by the Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago, is the head of the Criminal Law Department. The establishment of this position stemmed from the need for a constitutional post that would always be independent of political and stakeholder involvement in the prosecution of criminal matters. In this circumstance, the independence of this post is constitutionally guaranteed.<sup>7</sup>

### **The HIV Coordinating Unit<sup>8</sup>**

The HIV Coordinating Unit is charged with implementing the provisions of the National Workplace Policy on HIV and AIDS. It is also tasked with removing the stigma and discrimination associated with HIV and AIDS in the workplace by educating and informing staff about the virus; which is important to creating a safe, healthy and productive working environment. This will ensure that the rights of HIV and AIDS infected workers are met.

The core objectives of the department are in line with the overarching goals of the National HIV and AIDS Strategic Plan 2013-2018:

- To reduce the incidence of HIV infections in Trinidad and Tobago;
- To mitigate the negative impact of HIV and AIDS in persons living with HIV and affected by HIV and AIDS in Trinidad and Tobago;
- To reduce HIV and AIDS related discrimination in Trinidad and Tobago.

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<sup>7</sup> Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs website, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://agla.gov.tt/director-of-public-prosecutions/>

<sup>8</sup> Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs website, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://agla.gov.tt/hiv-coordinating-unit/>

### **The Intellectual Property Office<sup>9</sup>**

The Intellectual Property Office was created on the 1st December, 1997 (Section 3 of the Patents Act, 1996) and is situated at 3rd Floor, Capital Plaza, 11 – 13 Frederick Street, Port of Spain, Trinidad. A department within the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs, the department is the local government agency responsible for handling the registration of intellectual property rights.

### **The International Law And Human Rights Unit's<sup>10</sup>**

The International Law and Human Rights Unit's (ILHRU) mandate is focused on the preparation of country reports for submission to various international organizations, including the United Nations (UN), The Organization of American States (OAS), and International Labour Organization (ILO) in respect of international human rights instruments to which Trinidad and Tobago is a part. This process includes expansive data collection from external stakeholders, which include government and civil society. Apart from preparing national reports for Trinidad and Tobago, the Unit also acts as peer reviewer for other countries when a request is made to the government from an international organization such as the UN.

### **The International Office Of Child Rights<sup>11</sup>**

The International Office of Child Rights (hereinafter referred to as the "IOCR") operates within the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs. This Department houses the Civil Child Abduction Authority (hereinafter referred to as the "CCAA"), which was established under and by virtue of the International Child Abduction Act of 2008 (hereinafter referred to as the 'Act'). This Act

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<sup>9</sup> Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs website, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://agla.gov.tt/intellectual-property-office/>

<sup>10</sup> Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs website, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://agla.gov.tt/international-law-and-human-rights-unit/>

<sup>11</sup> Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs website, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://agla.gov.tt/international-office-of-child-rights/>

serves to provide for the application of the Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction (hereinafter referred to as the 'Convention') in Trinidad and Tobago and to provide for matters connected with or related thereto. The Convention is a multilateral treaty developed in 1980 by the Permanent Bureau of the Hague Conference on Private International Law that provides an expeditious method to return a child who was abducted by a parent from one member nation to another, where the child was a habitual resident. Trinidad and Tobago became a party to the Convention in 2000. The Convention was then incorporated into Trinidad and Tobago's domestic law via the Act.

### **The Law Reform Commission<sup>12</sup>**

The Law Reform Commission (the Commission) is an independent statutory body established under the Law Reform Act, Chap. 3:04. The Commission is responsible for promoting reform of the law and keeping under review all the laws applicable to Trinidad and Tobago. The Commission reports to Parliament through the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs.

The Commission's law reform work involves utilizing the law to reflect or shape the norms of society and enhance the standard of living for all. It entails keeping under review all laws and examining particular branches of the law with a view to their systematic development, including codification, simplification and modernization.

### **The Law Revision Commission<sup>13</sup>**

Established by the Law Revision Act, Chap. 3:03, the Commission's mandate is to prepare, publish and maintain a Revised Edition of the Laws of Trinidad and Tobago. It is the only agency charged with this responsibility. In pursuance of this mandate the Commission's vision is: "A state-of-the-art, technology-driven organisation providing real-time access to the updated Laws in both textual and

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<sup>12</sup> Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs website, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://agla.gov.tt/law-reform-commission/>

<sup>13</sup> Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs website, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://agla.gov.tt/law-revision-commission/>

electronic formats. Law revision is of cardinal importance to the administration of justice and the work of the Parliament. The constant revision of the laws must also be viewed in light of Government's policy to encourage foreign investment, as investors must have accurate and up-to-date knowledge of the business and financial laws of the country.

### **The Office Of The Solicitor General**

The Solicitor General's Department performs a critical role in the administration of justice by:

- Advising the State on all aspects of Civil Law
- By representing the State in both Constitutional and Civil Proceedings
- By Assisting in the formulation and execution of Government policy within the limits of the law
- To Vet financial documents relating to loan agreements and bond issues on the domestic and international markets.

### **Public Services provided are:**

- Application for Marriage Officer's Licence
- Application for Liquor Licences (Special Session)
- Application for Justice of the Peace/Commissioner of Affidavits<sup>14</sup>

### **The Process Review Team<sup>15</sup>**

The Process Review Team was established by Cabinet in January 2004 with the following mandates:

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<sup>14</sup> Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs website, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://agla.gov.tt/office-of-the-solicitor-general/>

<sup>15</sup> Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs website, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://agla.gov.tt/process-review-team/>

- To enhance the organizational effectiveness of the Ministry's policies, management systems and practices by addressing deficiencies in respect of work distribution and work flows, tracking and monitoring systems and evaluation and feedback mechanisms within the Ministry.
- To support the work of the Attorney General by ensuring the development of a Legislative Agenda.
- To engage in intervention strategies to 'fast track' critical legal matters which are under the purview of the Civil Law Department, Law Reform Commission and Legislative Drafting Department.

The Team's core objectives are to assist the Honourable Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs in the execution of specified matters as determined from the Legislative Agenda and to provide advice on legislative and policy reform.

### **The Registrar General's Department**

The Registrar General's Department (RGD) oversees civil, land & commercial registration in Trinidad & Tobago. The Department maintains the national archive of births, adoptions, marriages and deaths from 1893; record land titles and maintain a register of companies/businesses. The Department ensures that the administration of justice functions speedily, efficiently and effectively and provides reasonable access to justice for all persons irrespective of their means. The Department ensures that the island's most vital occurrences are recorded and provide essential services to the entire population as required by the Laws of Trinidad and Tobago.

# Auditor General Report Findings for the Fiscal year 2021

Ref: pages 45-46.<sup>16</sup>

## CHAPTER 1 - GENERAL MATTERS

### LIMITATION OF THE SCOPE/INDEPENDENCE

#### Limitations of the Audit of Statement of Revenue

1.12 A scope limitation is a restriction on an audit caused by the deliberate or unintentional actions of the client or caused by issues that are beyond the control of both the client and the auditor. Other events that do not allow the auditor to complete all planned audit procedures in a timely manner may also restrict the scope of the audit assignment.

1.13 Section 4 of the Income Tax Act, Chapter 75:01 is the provision that sets out the official secrecy requirements relating to the income or items of the income of any person. To this end, the interpretation and application by the Board of Inland Revenue of the secrecy provisions of section 4 of the Income Tax Act, have continued to pose a challenge to the audit of revenue at the Inland Revenue Division.

1.14 Following the recommendation of the Public Accounts Committee in the first quarter of 2017, the Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue and the Auditor General met on several occasions during the course of the financial years 2017 and 2018 under the auspices of the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs.

1.15 The Auditor General submitted proposals for the consideration of the Attorney General. However, these proposals were not accepted by the Inland Revenue Division. The Auditor General has always maintained that it has a legal right to access the information and due

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<sup>16</sup> Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year ended September 30, 2021, accessed on September 29, 2022 [https://auditorgeneral.gov.tt/sites/default/files/Auditor\\_Generals\\_Report\\_2021.pdf](https://auditorgeneral.gov.tt/sites/default/files/Auditor_Generals_Report_2021.pdf)



to the inability of the parties involved to come to a consensus, the Auditor General in 2019 and 2020 requested the Attorney General to file an interpretation summons for the interpretation of section 4 of the Income Tax Act.

1.16 Subsequently in March 22, 2022 the Auditor General wrote to the newly appointed Attorney General detailing the history of the ten (10) year old unresolved legal matter. The Attorney General assistance was requested in the form of an interpretation summons or any other action the Attorney General may see that can lead to the Auditor General fulfilling its' Constitutional mandate.

1.17 To mitigate the risk associated with the assertion of completeness of revenue, alternative testing to determine the reasonableness of the amounts presented was undertaken.

**Follow-up: Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago COVID-19 Related Expenditure as at September 30, 2021**

3.115 During the accounting period, expenditure continued on the management of the COVID-19 Pandemic by the various Ministries, Departments, Statutory Boards and State Enterprises. In this regard, the Auditor General Circular Memorandum No. 1 of 2021 dated September 30, 2021 requested information with respect to COVID-19 expenditure incurred by Ministries and Departments including those of Statutory Bodies/State Enterprises under their purview. Appendix I, refers.

Appendix I

**COVID-19 EXPENDITURE 2021**

Head	Ministry	Ministry (\$)	Audited (\$)	No Response	Remarks
23	Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs	\$306,579.89	\$306,579.89		

## STATEMENTS OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS

4.4 Section 24 (1) (c) of the Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01 as amended by Act No. 23 of 1998 requires Receivers of Revenue to prepare and transmit to the Auditor General their Statements of Receipts and Disbursements in such a form as the Treasury may direct. By Comptroller of Accounts Circular No. 11 dated July 23, 2021, Receivers of Revenue were required to transmit to the Auditor General, Statements of Receipts and Disbursements in respect of monies collected under the Items of Revenue for which they are responsible on or before Monday January 31, 2022. The following Receivers of Revenue did not comply with the Comptroller of Accounts Circular No.11, as required.

<b>Receiver of Revenue</b>	<b>Date Received</b>
AT5 - Permanent Secretary, Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs	April 1, 2022

## AUDIT OF REVENUE

### **AL7 - Controller Intellectual Property Office, Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs**

4.13 For revenue collected as at September 30, 2021, there was a difference of \$302,320.00 between the Statement of Receipts and Disbursements balance of \$6,547,210.00 and the Treasury Card balance of \$6,244,890.00.

4.14 Reconciliations were not provided to reconcile the Statement balances and the Treasury Card balances. The Receiver was authorised by the Treasury to accept on-line payments via debit and credit card mechanisms. Reconciliations were not provided for revenue collected via the on-line system. It is noted that the Controller on April 16, 2020 informed the Auditor General that weekly reconciliation would be undertaken.

## Key Statement from 2021 Standing Finance Committee Debate<sup>17</sup>

The Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs is in its sixth year of operation having been comprised from three separate Ministries prior to its creation. The three separate Ministries were the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Ministry of the Attorney General. Over the years we have managed to significantly reduce expenditure. In fact, by public documents laid in this Parliament we have saved somewhere close to \$2.65 billion in expenditure as a result of the reorganization and expenditure of management reforms.

Mr. Chairman, we have a very exciting year, a large part of which comes about in our Development Programme, so I will save it for questions under that point, particularly as we complete the digitization efforts that the Ministry is at the cusp – and in fact has already launched in go-live testing, and I mean specifically in relation to the property business registration system, as we are looking to the unique parcel identification numbering protocols and the upgrade of the Civil Registry including bedside registration, online system regulation as we look to the development of a national population registry and our land and ICT refreshing combined with our upgrade of IT and other positions. At the end of the day, Mr. Chairman, we are pleased to present ourselves for questions, and I therefore thank you for the opportunity for that very brief opening statement.

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs  
The Honourable Faris Al-Rawi, MP

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<sup>17</sup> Standing Finance Committee Hansard of the Office of the Prime Minister, October 14, 2021. Accessed on September 29, 2022 : <https://www.ttparliament.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/hh20211011sfc.pdf>

## Supplementation of Appropriation for the fiscal year 2022

During fiscal 2022, 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 Office of the Attorney General and The Ministry of Legal Affairs requested and was granted the following supplementations<sup>18</sup>:

### **Recurrent Expenditure - \$79,070,000**

#### 02/001/12 – Materials and Supplies - \$8,600,000

For the acquisition of polymer certificates.

#### 02/001/16 – Contract Employment - \$17,220,000

To pay officers employed on contract arrears of salaries due to revised terms and conditions of employment as well as to meet commitments to September 30, 2022.

#### 02/001/22 – Short-Term Employment - \$15,000,000

To pay persons employed on a short term basis.

#### 02/001/23 – Fees - \$30,000,000

To meet the payment of fees to local and foreign Attorneys for the provision of services.

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<sup>18</sup> Report of SFC

02/009/23 – Fees - \$5,000,000

To pay fees owed to Deloitte and Touche for services provided over the period July 1 to December 2020.

04/007/40 – Gratuities to Contract Officers - \$3,250,000

To meet gratuity payments to persons who completed their contract appointments.

**Development Programme - \$16,543,000**

09/005/06/A/018 – Strengthened Information Management of the Registrar General’s Department - \$16,543,000

The sum is required to complete components of the Strengthened Information Management of the Registrar General’s Department project as the IDB loan arrangement which was executed in January 2014 ended in January 2022.

“The Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs is seeking supplementary fees to address critical areas under *Recurrent Expenditure* in both general administration and the Director of Public Prosecutions Division for its operations, namely: one, materials and supplies; two, contract employment and gratuity; three, short term employment; and four, legal fees.

Additionally, funds are being allocated under the *Development Programme* for the continuous strengthening of the information management under the Registrar General’s Department which encapsulates the Civil Registry, Land Registry and Companies Registry.

The Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs has supervision of 14 bodies and also has indirect employment for numerous persons across the direct units that the office manages. The Office is crossed into several thousand if you were to add the number of supervisory and functionary employment positions that are managed, be it the Equal Opportunity Commission, the Environmental Commission and several other public authorities, and also functions as a conduit for the Judiciary.”

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs

*Senator The Honourable Reginald Armour S.C*

# Public Sector Investment Programme 2022<sup>19</sup>

## Administration

### *Public Buildings*

The construction, refurbishment, renovation and equipping of public buildings and offices to provide improved accommodation for staff and clients accessing Government services will continue to be executed in fiscal 2023 with an allocation of \$265.2 million. The developmental works, which seek to enable OSH Act compliance and more comfortable working environment, will include:

outfitting of the following offices:

- o San Fernando offices for the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- o District Registrar Offices and Legal Aid and Advisory Authority;
- o Tower C, International Waterfront Centre to facilitate the relocation of the Civil Law Department;
- o Registrar General's Department, South to facilitate the relocation to Gulf City, La Romaine;

## **Vision 2030 Improving Productivity Through Quality Infrastructure and Transportation**

Single Electronic Window

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<sup>19</sup> Public Sector Investment Programme 2023, pg 97, 238 accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/2022/09/26/three-year-public-sector-investment-programme-2023-2025/>

The IDB assisted Enhancement of the Single Electronic Window continued under the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI). Works undertaken included:

- completion of the Trade and Business Information Portal;
- design and implementation of the Enhanced TTBizLink application software;
- implementation of the Automated Construction Permitting System (DevelopTT);
- completion of the National Maritime Policy and Strategy;
- implementation of the Port Community System; and
- implementation of the Business Intelligence and Analytics Software.

## The Ministry's total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2017 to 2023

Year <sup>[1]</sup>	Total Allocation <sup>[2]</sup>	National Budget <sup>[3]</sup>	Percentage of National Budget
2017	\$ 307,416,793.00	\$ 54,883,153,410.00	0.56%
2018	\$ 330,248,121.00	\$ 54,211,726,813.00	0.61%
2019	\$ 392,382,842.00	\$ 54,581,467,181.00	0.72%
2020	\$ 439,516,085.00	\$ 57,388,076,726.00	0.76%
2021	\$453,752,919.00	\$56,498,472,820.00	0.80%
2022	\$482,992,430.00	\$59,190,331,126.00.	0.82%
2023	\$395,627,940.00	\$67,944,048,911.00	0.58%

- Total allocation for the Ministry as a percentage of the National Budget illustrated a decrease in the allocation to the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs by **0.24%** between the years 2022 and 2023.

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<sup>[1]</sup> For the Fiscal Years 2017-2021, actual figures were used to calculate the Ministry's total allocation. However, estimates were used to determine the Ministry's total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.

<sup>[2]</sup> Total Allocation for the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs = Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund

<sup>[3]</sup> The National Budget= Total Recurrent Expenditure + Total Development Programme Consolidated Fund



# Where the Ministry spends its money

## 2023 Estimates of Expenditure

The budget allocation of **\$395,627,940.00** for the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of **\$370,577,940<sup>20</sup>**; and
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme Consolidated Fund in the sum of **\$25,050,000.00<sup>21</sup>**.

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure includes:

- 01 Personnel Expenditure - **\$93,114,000.00**;
- 02 Goods and Services- **\$209,172,600.00**;
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases - **\$1,720,500.00**; and
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies - **\$66,570,840.00**.

The Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs:

- Total allocation as a percentage of National Budget is **0.58%**
- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is **0.57%**; and
- Consolidated Fund allocation as a percentage of the total Consolidated Fund allocation is **0.78%**.

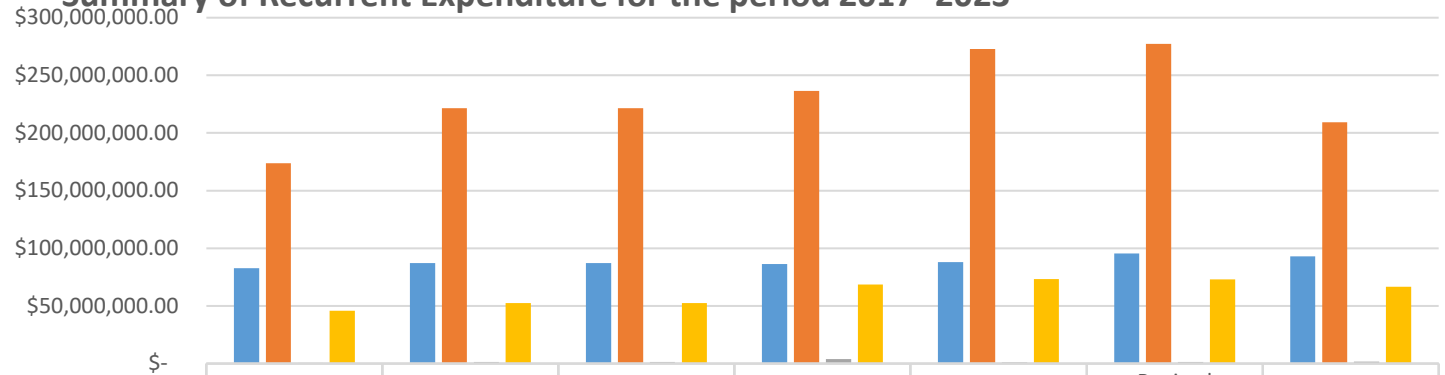
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<sup>20</sup> Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2023 accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Details-of-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

<sup>21</sup> Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

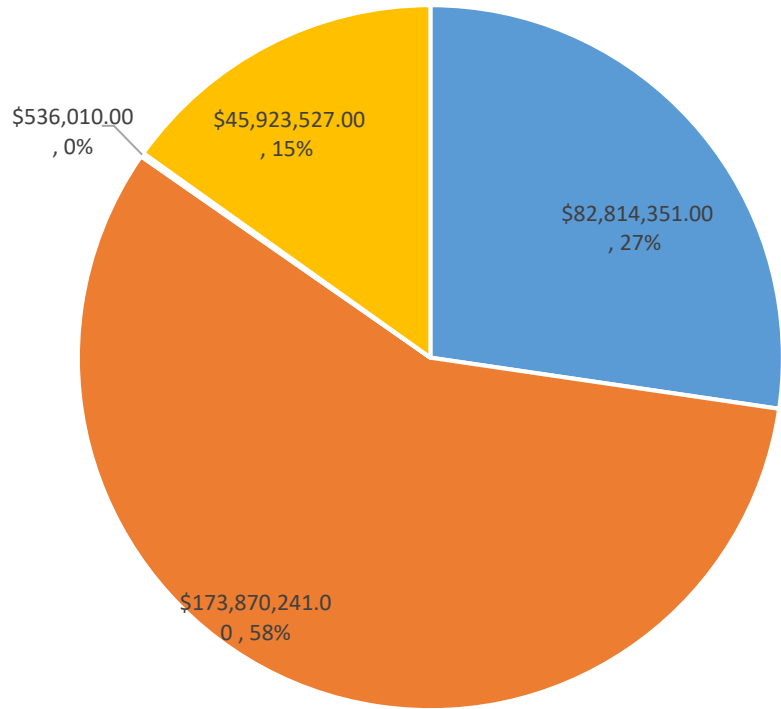
# Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2017-2023

Summary of Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2017 -2023



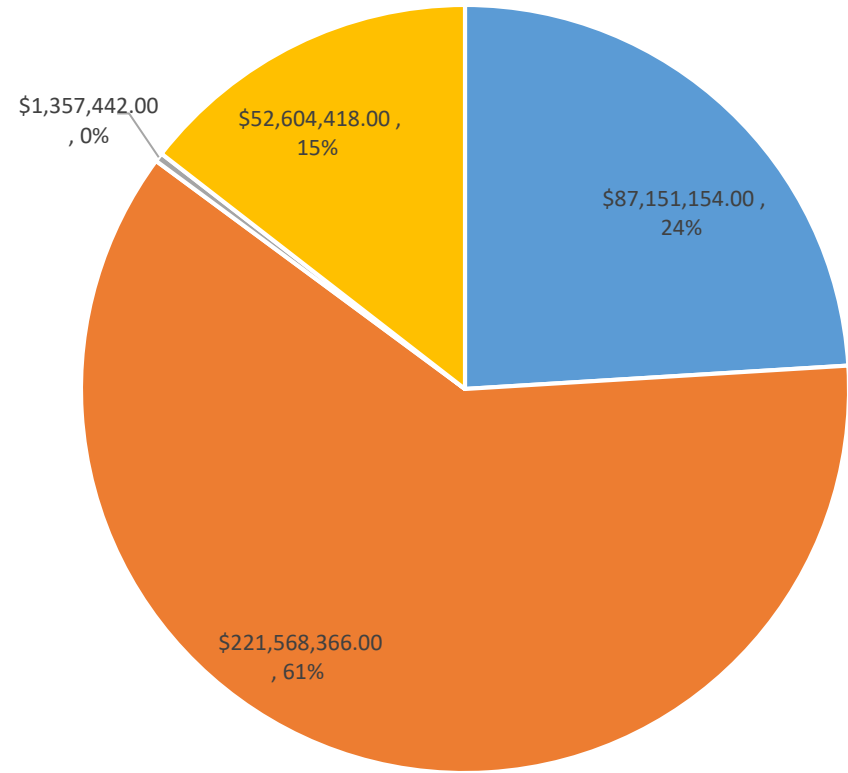
	Actual 2017	Actual 2018	Actual 2019	Actual 2020	Actual 2021	Revised Estimates 2022	Estimates 2023
01 Personnel Expenditure	\$82,814,351.0	\$87,151,154.0	\$87,151,154.0	\$86,408,325.0	\$87,882,989.0	\$95,373,500.0	\$93,114,000.0
02 Goods and Services	\$173,870,241.0	\$221,568,366.0	\$221,568,366.0	\$236,458,685.0	\$272,902,177.0	\$277,178,530.0	\$209,172,600.0
03 Minor Equipment Purchases	\$536,010.00	\$1,357,442.00	\$1,357,442.00	\$4,001,337.00	\$1,095,913.00	\$1,462,000.00	\$1,720,500.00
04 Current Transfers and Subsidies	\$45,923,527.0	\$52,604,418.0	\$52,604,418.0	\$68,699,346.0	\$73,276,658.0	\$73,135,400.0	\$66,570,840.0

2017 Actual \$303,144,129.00



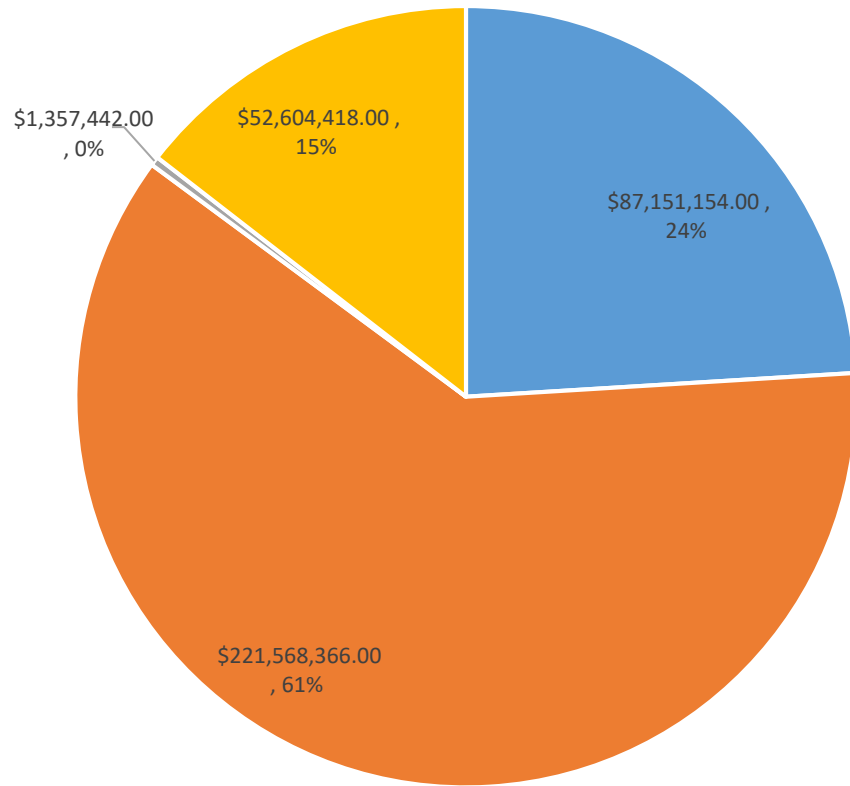
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2018 Actual \$362,681,380.00



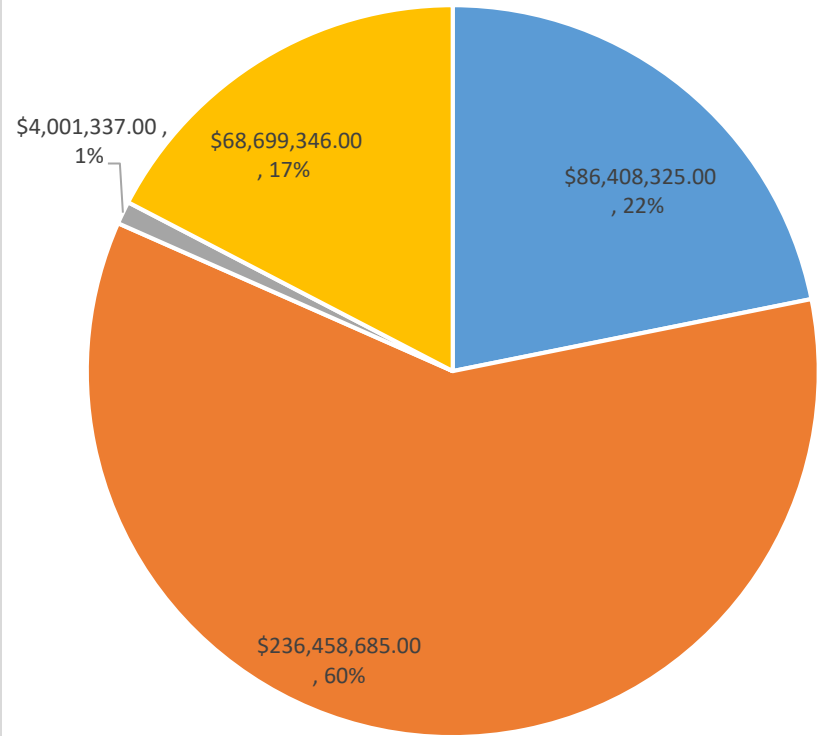
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2019 Actual \$362,681,380.00



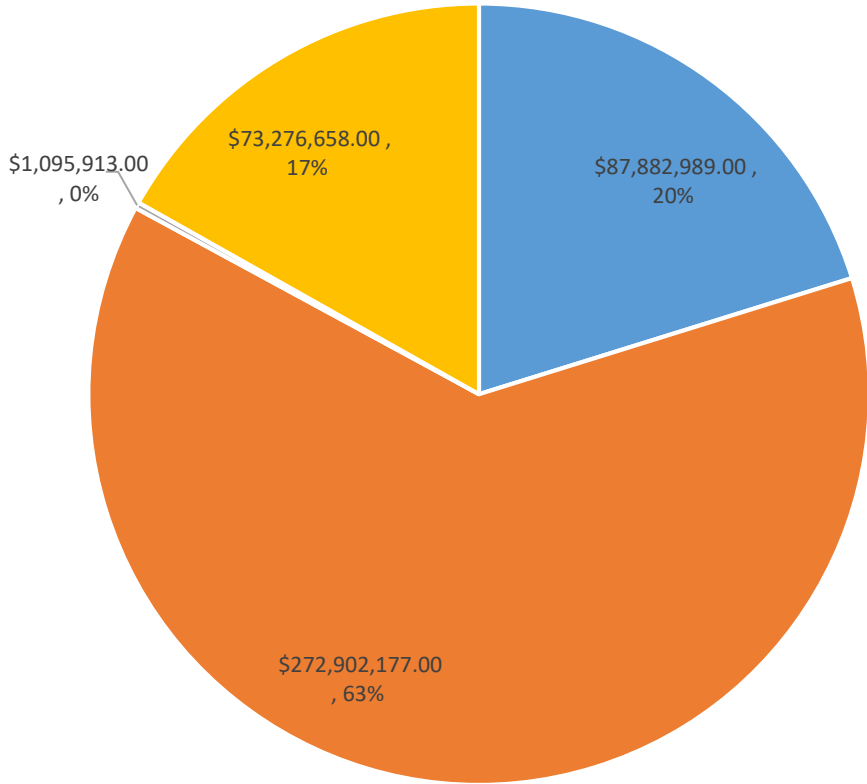
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2020 Actual \$395,567,693.00



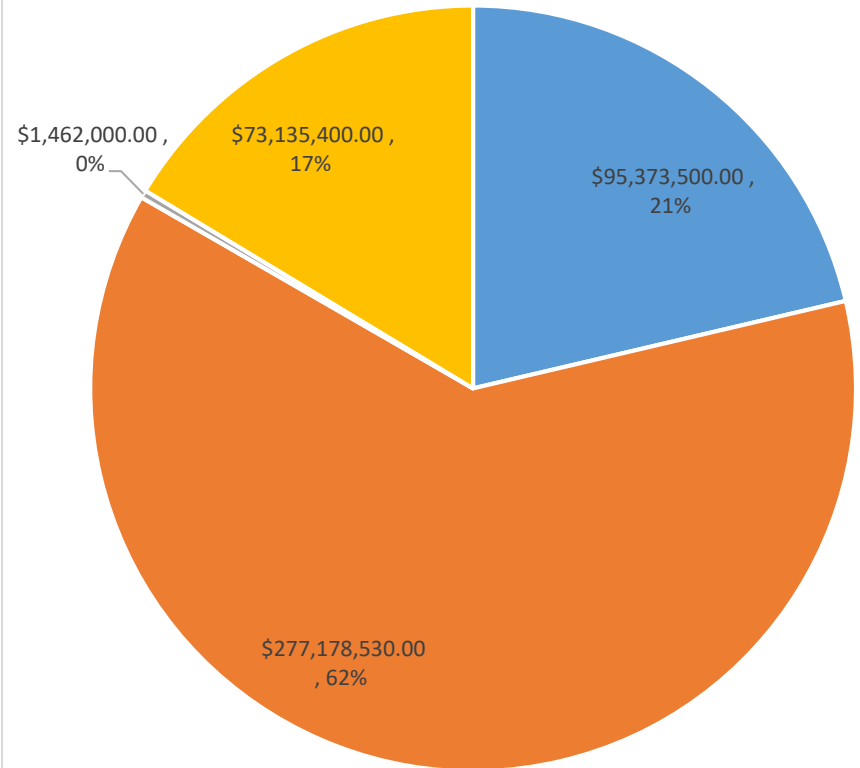
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2021 Actual \$435,157,737.00



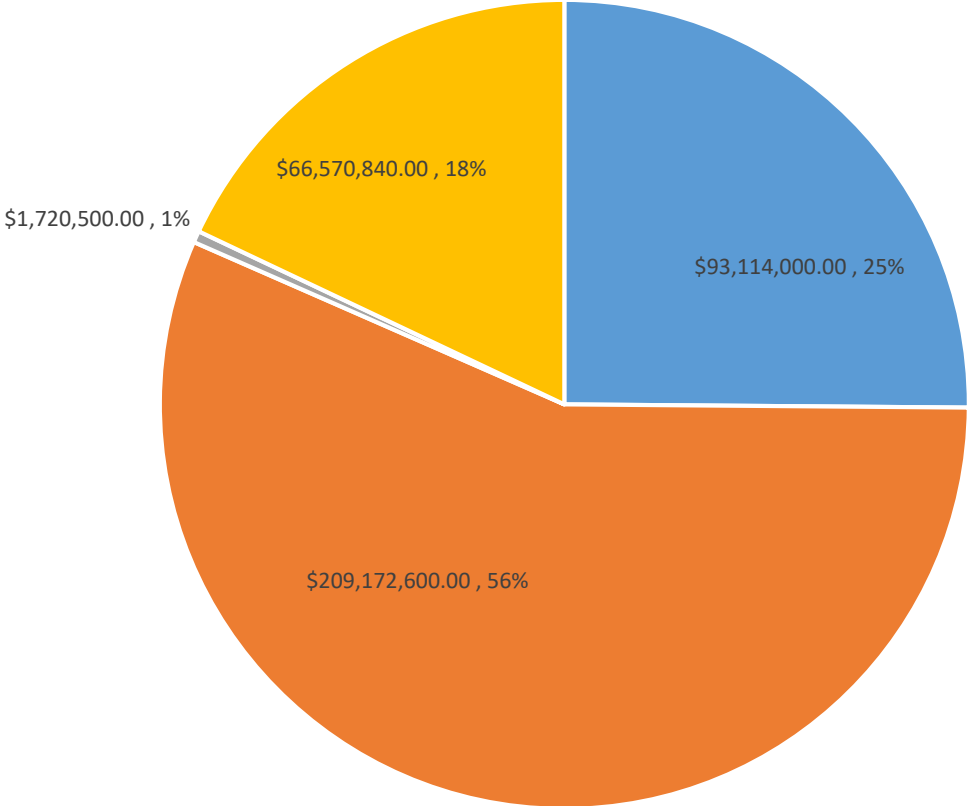
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

2022 Revised Estimates \$447,149,430.00



- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

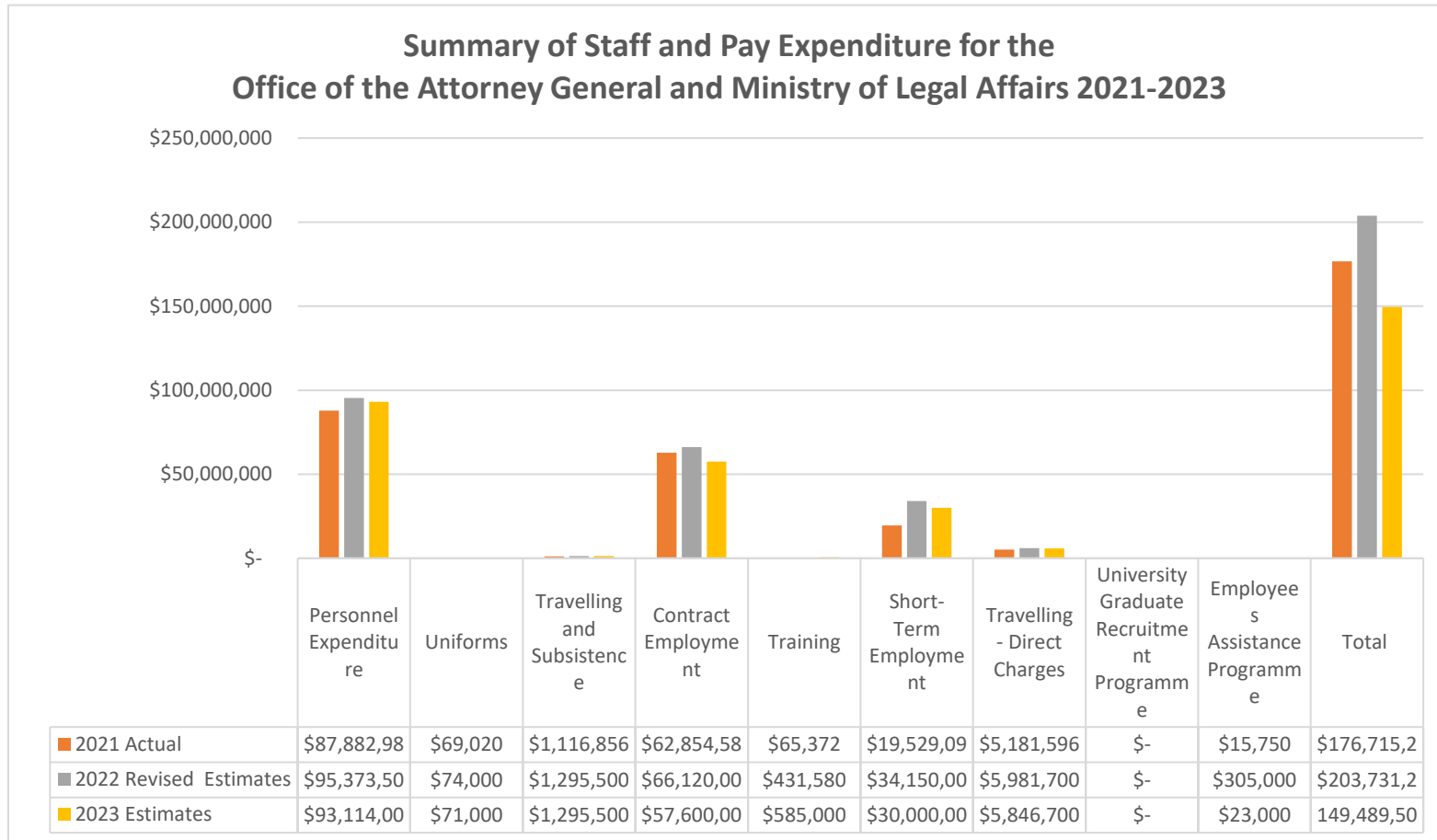
2023 Estimates \$370,577,940.00



- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies

## Staff and Pay<sup>22</sup>

The allocation of staff expenditure for the fiscal year 2023 was \$ **149,489,500.00**. The following chart provides a breakdown of all expenditure related to staff from 2021-2023.



<sup>22</sup> Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2023 accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Details-of-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

## Analysis and Summary of Expenditure<sup>23</sup>

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

- Recurrent Expenditure (Revised) for Fiscal Year 2022 was **\$447,149,430.00**. Comparing this figure with the Estimate for Fiscal Year 2023 of \$ **370,577,940.00**, there is a decrease of **\$76,571,490.00** or **17%**.
- The **largest** portion of the allocation has consistently gone to Sub-Head 02 **Goods and Services** which represents the sum of **\$209,172,600.00**. This figure has been fluctuating over the period 2017 - 2023. The figure allocated to the Ministry for fiscal year 2023 accounted for approximately 56% of total Recurrent Expenditure received by the Ministry.
- **Minor Equipment Purchases** received the **lowest** portion of the total allocation for the Ministry over the period 2017 - 2023 accounting for approximately **1%** of total funding for the Ministry for fiscal year 2022.
- **Personnel Expenditure** received the **second largest** portion of the allocation and has been fluctuating over the period 2017 - 2023. Comparing 2022 to 2023, it has, decreased by **\$2,259,500**.

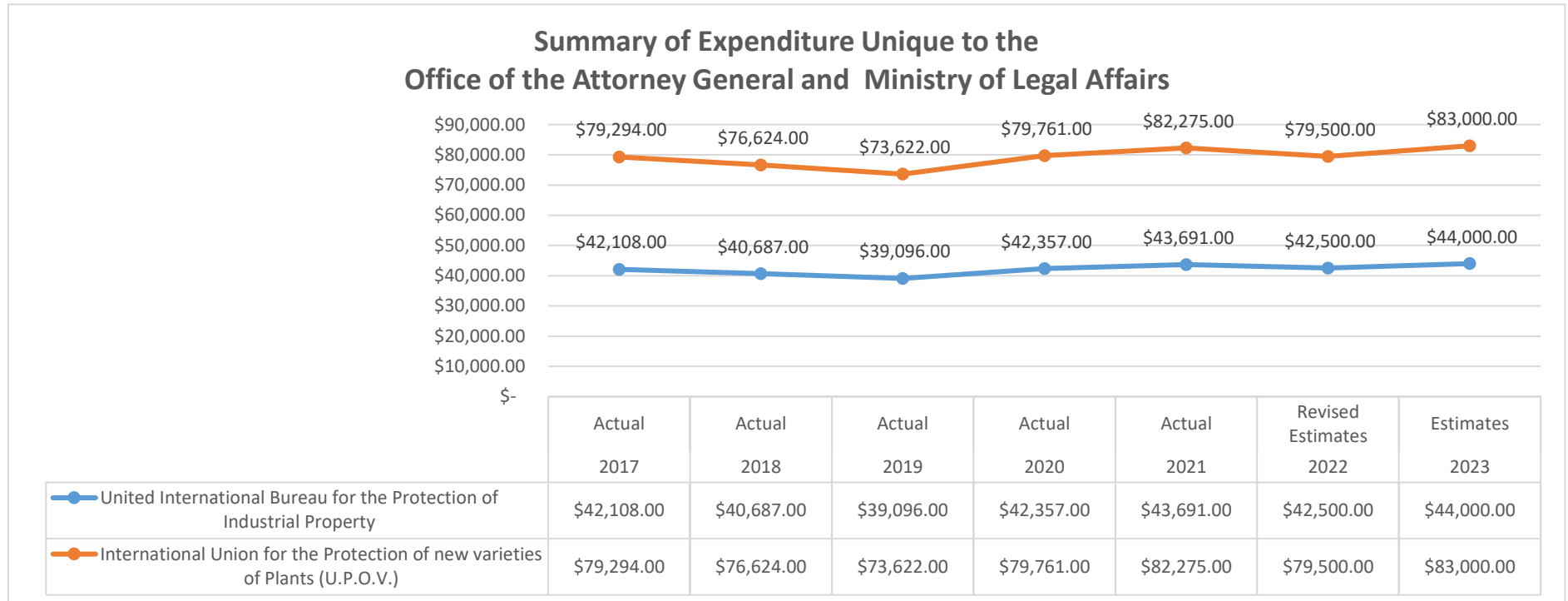
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<sup>23</sup>Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure 2023 accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Details-of-Estimates-of-Recurrent-Expenditure-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>



# Analysis of Expenditure Unique to the Ministry

Unique Expenditure refers to expenditure items incurred by the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs that may not feature in other ministries or departments. The two items unique to the Ministry are transfers to the International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants<sup>24</sup> and the United International Bureau for the Protection of Intellectual Property<sup>25</sup>



<sup>24</sup> The International Union for the Protection of New Varieties of Plants (UPOV) is an intergovernmental whose mission is to provide and promote an effective system of plant variety protection, with the aim of encouraging the development of new varieties of plants, for the benefit of society. UPOV website: <https://www.upov.int/portal/index.html.en> Accessed on September 29, 2022

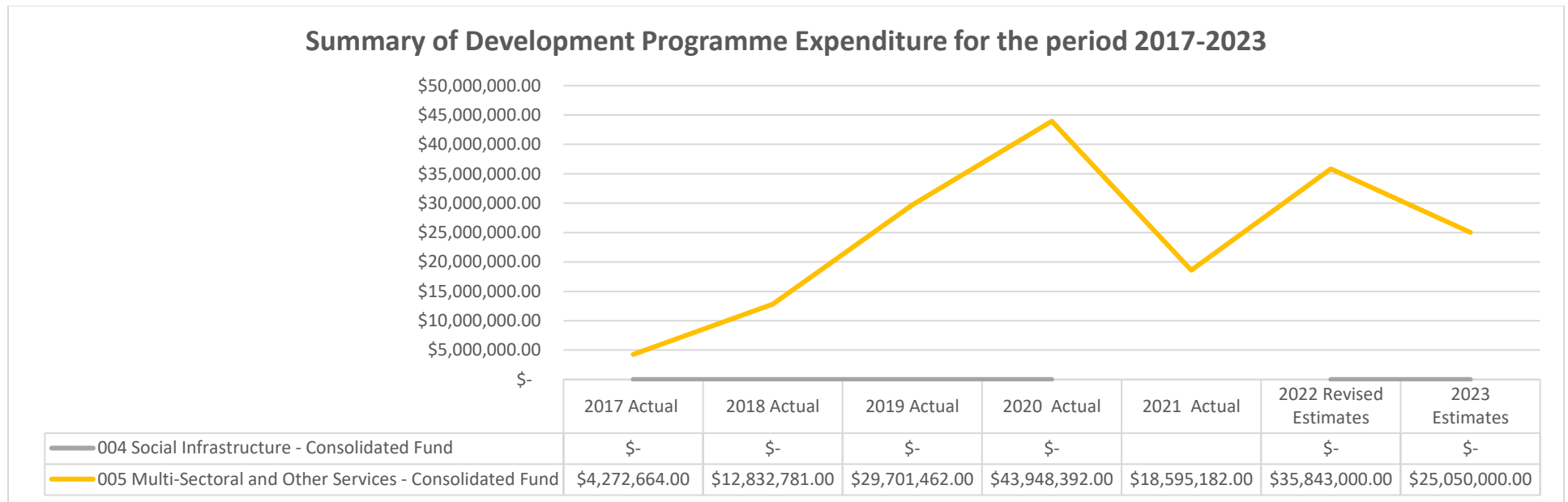
<sup>25</sup> The United International Bureau for the Protection of Intellectual Property is the predecessor of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) whose mission is to lead the development of a balanced and effective international IP system that enables innovation and creativity for the benefit of all. WIPO website <https://www.wipo.int/about-wipo/en/> Accessed on September 29, 2022

## Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2017-2023<sup>26</sup>

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 allocation of **\$25,050,000.00** for development programmes and projects for fiscal year 2023 is solely for funds appropriated by Parliament and disbursed directly from the Consolidated Fund. The monies were allocated to two Items as follows:

- Funds disbursed via **Multi-Sectoral and Other Services** representing **100%** of the Total allocation.



<sup>26</sup> Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

## Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2019<sup>27</sup>

The following new projects received funding in the 2019 financial year:

Development Programme 2019	PROJECTS	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Revised Estimate	2023 Estimates
005-06-A-025	Modernization of the Companies Registry	\$0	\$5,269,838	\$1,662,051	\$1,392,223	Removed
005-06-F-026	Fit-Out Accommodation for Civil Law Department	-	-	-	-	\$3,000,000
005-06-F-027	Accommodations for District Registrar Offices	-	-	-	-	\$500,000
005-06-F-028	Provision of Accommodation for the Legal Aid and Advisory Authority	\$1,405,842	\$6,308,029	\$1,916,181	\$0	\$600,000

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<sup>27</sup> Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

## Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2021<sup>28</sup>

The following new projects received funding in the 2021 financial year

<b>Development Programme 2021</b>	<b>PROJECTS</b>	<b>2021 Actual</b>	<b>2022 Revised Estimate</b>	<b>2023 Estimates</b>
005-06-A-045	Digitisation of the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs	\$1,947,565.	\$500,000.	\$1,000,000.
005-06-F-029	Outfitting of Accommodation for Registrar General Department	\$0	\$0	\$4,000,000.

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<sup>28</sup> Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

## Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2022<sup>29</sup>

The following new projects received funding in the 2022 financial year

<b>Development Programme 2022</b>	<b>PROJECTS</b>	<b>2022 Revised Estimate</b>	<b>2023 Estimates</b>
005-06-F-030	Renovation of Winsure Building	\$0	\$1,000,000.

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<sup>29</sup> Draft Estimates of Development Programme 2023, accessed on September 29, 2022 <https://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Draft-Estimates-of-Development-Programme-for-the-Financial-Year-2023.pdf>

## General Useful Information

- Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs, Bahamas: <https://www.bahamas.gov.bs/>
- Ministry of the Ministry of Legal Affairs and Attorney General Chambers, Guyana : <http://legalaffairs.gov.gy/attorney-generals-chambers>
- Attorney General's Chambers, Jamaica: <https://www.agc.gov.jm/>
- Attorney General's Department, Australia: <https://www.ag.gov.au/>
- Attorney General's Office, United Kingdom: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/attorney-generals-office>