

CARIBBEAN LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

PRINCES TOWN REGIONAL CORPORATION, TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO LOCAL AREA ECONOMIC PROFILE



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- The staff of the Ministry of Local Government, especially the Director of Regional Planning, Mr. Rodney Ramlogan and the Regional Planning Officer with responsibility for Princes Town, Ms. Lychelle Brown, were extremely supportive and provided very valuable guidance
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1.0 LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

"The purpose of local economic development (LED) is to build up the economic capacity of a local area to improve its economic future and the quality of life for all. It is a process by which public, business and nongovernmental sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation" World Bank 2006:1

To build a strong local economy it is essential to:

- i. Understand the unique local conditions that either enhance or reduce the potential for local economic development.
- ii. Have a collaborative process involving local government, private sector and civil society.

This profile sets the background against which local economic development planning will take place in the Princes Town Regional Corporation.

2.0 AREA INFORMATION AND DEMOGRAPHICS

2.1 LOCATION AND BACKGROUND



Princes Town Regional Corporation (PTRC) is located in the south of the island of Trinidad it is approximately 100 km by road south of Port of Spain. The population of Princes Town, according to the 2011 census, is 102,957 up 10.2% from 91,947 in the 2000 census. The regional corporation is 620 square kilometres. The PTRC is made up of fifty-six communities. PTRC is one of the largest municipalities by area in Trinidad and Tobago.

Figure 1: Location of Princes Town Regional Corporation

The region has a number of socio-economic challenges. It ranks the lowest among all municipalities on the multi-dimensional poverty index. The closure of Caroni (1975) Limited and the demise of the sugar industry has complicated these issues and the development of Princes Town.

Trinidad and Tobago Municipal Indicators Princes Town Percentage of Population having Chronic Illnesses 34.1 24.1% 74.20 88035 ABC Household Income Per Capita 90.6% 57.0% \$6,105.0 5.2% N 8.1% 81.0% 5.8% 76.8 41.2

Figure 2: Princes Town Municipal Indicators

Figure 2 provides a snap shot of the human development index of Princes Town at 2008-2009.

Source: Trinidad and Tobago Human Development Index Atlas

2.2 GEOGRAPHY

Princes Town Regional Corporation covers an area of 620 square km. In the south Princes Town extends to the coast; in the north west it abuts the City of San Fernando and parts of the Corporation serves as suburban areas to San Fernando. Parts of the coastal area are susceptible to erosion. Flooding is not widespread but there are areas which experience severe incidents of flooding. More significant is the susceptibility of many localities to landslips. These earth movements have had serious impacts on the road network in the corporation.

2.3 DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

The 2011 Census indicated a total population for the area covered by the Princes Town Regional Corporation as 102,375, of which 52,382 were males and 49,992 were females. The population

has grown from 91,947 from the last census in 2000. The population density of the PTRC is 165 persons per km² up from 148 per km² in the last census.

Of the thirteen municipal corporations in Trinidad and the Tobago House of Assembly Princes town ranked eleventh on the human development index, with only Mayaro/Rio Claro, Sangre Grande and Arima having a lower score on the index, see Figure 3.

Trinidad and Tobago National Human Development Index (2008-2009) by Adminstrative Areas 0.660 0.616 0.728 Port-Of-Spain 0.640 Arima 0.678 0 Source: Central Statistical Office, Household Budget Survey 2008-2009 0.592 /Rio Clare 0.727 San Ferna National Human Development 0.644 0.592 - 0.642 0.613 - 0.663 0.664 - 0.680

Figure 3: Overall Ranking on the National Human Development Index (2008-2009)

Source: Trinidad and Tobago Human Development Index

Princes Town had the second highest incidence of chronic diseases and the fourth lowest "secondary and higher education" attainment rate. Princes Town had lowest rate of female participation in the workforce. Also, according to the Human Development Atlas, Princes Town had the second highest incidence and highest intensity of multidimensional poverty among the municipal corporations in Trinidad and Tobago, using the following indicators: years of schooling, school attendance, child mortality, nutrition, cooking fuel, sanitation, water,

electricity, floor and asset ownership.

It is estimated that in 2012 almost thirty-four hundred households in Princes Town received assistance from the Ministry of the People and Social Development, representing an 86 per cent increase in the number of homes receiving assistance as of March 2009.

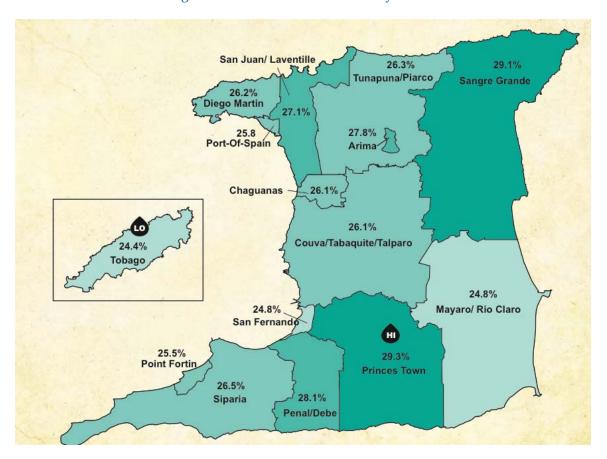


Figure 4: Multi Dimensional Poverty Index

Princes Town has a majority Indian-descended population as seen in Table 1 and Figure 5, with just under 55% of the population being of Indian descent and 23.4% being of African descent.



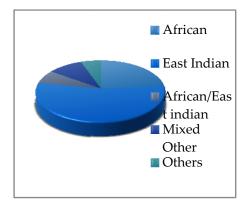
Photo 1: Princes Town Diverse Places of Worship

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Table 1: Princes Town Regional Corporation Ethnic Distribution of Population

Ethnic Group	Total	Percentage
Total Population	102,369	100
African	23,939	23.4
Caucasian	33	
Chinese	2154	
East Indian	55,720	54.4
Indigenous	54	
Mixed - African/East Indian	7,021	6.9
Mixed - Other	9,784	9.6
Other Ethnic Group	56	
Not Stated	5,589	5,5

Figure 5: Ethnic Distribution of Population

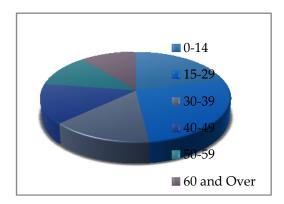


The median age of the population in Princes Town is 31.5 years, while the 15-29 cohort accounted for more than one quarter of the Corporation's total population. The age distribution is shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Age Distribution of Population

Age Group	Total	Percentage
Total	20,161	100
0-14	21,339	20.8
15-29	27,33	26.7
30-39	15,336	15.0
40-49	14,462	14.1
50-59	11,858	11.6
60 and Over	10,927	10.7

Figure 6: Age Distribution of Population



Princes Town has 56 distinct communities. There is one main commercial centre, Princes Town Proper; two communities, Palmyra/Corinth and Harmony Hall, have been classified as suburban; and there area number of rural centres, such as Moruga and New Grant and several small villages.

2.4 UTILITIES

According the Central Statistical Office¹ in 2008-2009,8.1 percent of the population of the PTRCwas withoutsupply of clean drinking water. Relatedly, 5.8% of the population did not have access to improved sanitation.

The population without electricity was put at 3.7%.

2.5 LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

The framework of the current Trinidad and Tobago local government system was put in place in the late 1950s. The essential element of this framework is that local government bodies operate within very limited areas of autonomy as an extension of the central government. Every change in Government in the country since independence had brought a stated intention to reform local government in terms of giving more and wide autonomy so that these bodies could respond more effectively to citizens' needs. According to a White Paper on Local Government Reform, which was released in 2009, there has been a "plethora" of commissions and committees, which have presented reports. However, there has not been fundamental change".

In the White Paper, the then Government recognized "that the current Local Government system is inefficient, ineffective and unable to cope with the changing dynamics of the various Municipalities and that responsibilities are duplicated by other ministries and departments".

Since 2005, the Government has taken as the benchmark for local government reform, among other things, the **Aberdeen Agenda** emerging from the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), Scotland, 2005 which subscribed to good practices for local democracy and good governance such as accountability, transparency, equitable service delivery and continuous capacity development and the **Auckland Accord**, 2007 which emphasized the need for promoting development through local leadership.

At present, the PTRC is one of fourteen municipal corporations making up the local government system in Trinidad and Tobago. Municipal corporations do not have an independent revenue base and depend entirely on the central government for allocations from the national budget². The areas within which municipal corporations function are largely administrative and tend not to be strategic. Planning in Trinidad and Tobago is done almost exclusively at the national level. Although there was an effort to develop municipal spatial development plans. But it must be

²One source of revenue for municipal corporations was the land tax. However, the collection of land taxes has been suspended as the central government reviews the overall revenue administration of the country.

¹Central Statistical Office, Human Development Atlas, 2008-2009

noted that these plans were limited to spatial development and not broader socio-economic issues³. Even so the terms of reference for each plan and the aspect of the management of the development of the plans were managed by the Ministry of Local Government.

In the current system, local government agencies have some responsibilities for public health, including dumps and landfills, property development, municipal security, parks and playgrounds. In Table 3, the sharing of these responsibilities is shown with the attendant duplication and lack of autonomy for locally-driven economic development.

Table 3: Municipal Corporation Responsibilities

Area of Responsibility	Municipal Corporation Autonomy	Other Government Agencies
Public Health	 Issuing of food badges Registration of food premises – hotel, restaurants, bars, supermarkets and shops Provision of public rest rooms Rodents, insect vector and vermin control Cleaning of septic tanks and cesspits Garbage collection 	Ministry of Health
Property Development	Building and land development control	 Town and Country Planning Division Ministry of Health Ministry of Works and Infrastructure
Municipal Security	•	 Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs
Recreation and Public Facilities	 Maintenance of recreation grounds, stages, squares and parks 	 Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs
Community services	 Maintenance of public markets Provision and maintenance of parks and sporting facilities Control of public stages, recreation grounds and parks 	•
Cemeteries and Burial Grounds	 Provision and maintenance of public cemeteries and burial grounds 	 Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management

³Although an attempt is being made to re-frame the spatial plan initiative to incorporate more holistic development

Area of Responsibility	Municipal Corporation Autonomy	Other Government Agencies
Disaster Management	•	 Ministry of Works and Infrastructure
Roads, drains and other physical infrastructure	 Maintenance of drains and minor water courses Maintenance of secondary roads, bridges and culverts Maintenance of street signs 	•

In general, the White Paper recognised a need to decentralize power and authority from Central Government and to expand the functional base of local government authorities while giving them greater financial autonomy as a means for more effective service delivery; and the encouragement of greater citizen participation and involvement in Local Government Affairs

2.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET

Trinidad and Tobago budgets have two main components – recurrent expenditure and the development programme. The recurrent allocation covers operational expenses such as personnel and other administrative expenses. The development allocation is the key to understanding the scope for investing in infrastructure to support local economic development.

The development budget for the PTRC doubled from 2011 to 2012 and had a further increase of almost 13 percent in 2013.

Table 4: Princes Town Regional Corporation Budget

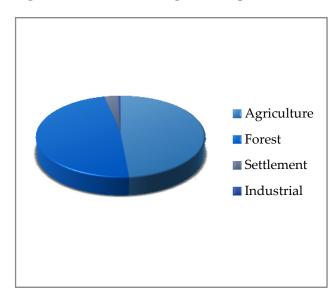
Project Description	2011	2012	2013
Total	6,897,867	13,940,000	15,700,000
Drainage and Irrigation	1,320,000	1,720,000	2,000,00
Development of Recreational	785,530	1,000,000	1,000,000
Improvements to markets and abattoirs	-	-	-
Development of cemeteries and cremation sites	-	300,000	500,000
Local Roads and Bridges	4,102,967	6,000,000	8,000,000
Local Government Building Programme	70,000	500,000	400,000
Equipment purchases	-	1,500,000	1,800,000
Laying water mains	-	300,000	300,000
Computerisation programme	200,000	400,000	400,000
Municipal Police Equipment	120,000	120,000	-
Disaster Preparedness	299,370	2,000,000	1,000,000
Establishment Spatial Development Plan	-	2,000,000	1,000,000

The allocation for the establishment of the spatial development plan is noteworthy. In 2012each municipal corporation received an allocation of TT\$2,000,000 to be used on projects identified in their respective spatial development plan. That allocation was cut in half in the 2013 fiscal year.

3.0 LAND USE AND RESOURCES

3.1 LAND USE

Figure 7: Princes Town Regional Corporation Land Use



Until the closure of Caroni 1975 Limited, the area covered by the PTRC was dominated by agriculture production, particularly sugar. Since the demise of the sugar industry much of the agriculture land has remained fallow with an increased risk to squatting and other forms of unplanned land use.

PTRC is some 200,000 hectares in area. Of this 98,000 ha or 48% is devoted to agriculture; 97,000 ha or 47% is under forest; settlements account for just about 3% and less than 1% is devoted to industrial use.

3.2 RESOURCES

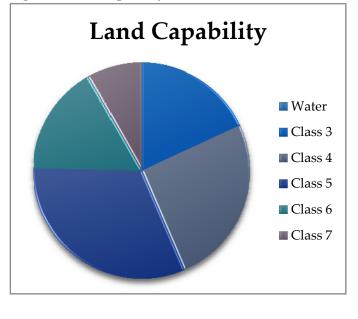
3.2.1 NATURAL RESOURCES

The main natural resources of the area are its forests and its fairly abundant arable land. In terms of the capabilities of the soils, Table 5 and Figure 8 show the distribution of soils. There also deposits of crude oil in the corporation.

Table 5: Land Capability

Tuble of Early Capability				
		Percentages		
Class	Use	of Total		
		Area		
Water		.02		
	Suitable			
3	for	18.0		
	cultivation			
	Suitable			
4	for	25.4		
	cultivation			
5	Limited to	31.7		
3	pasture	31.7		
	Unsuitable			
6	for	16.4		
	cultivation			
	Unsuitable			
7	for	8.2		
	cultivation			

Figure 8: Land Capability



Source: Princes Town Final Draft Municipal Development Plan

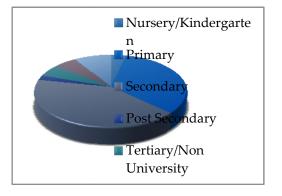
3.2.2 HUMAN RESOURCES

Fifty-seven per cent of the population in PTRC had an education attainment level of secondary or higher and 90.6% had at least a primary level. CSO 2011:159) Data are not available on a more detailed breakdown of the education attainment, especially for the range of post-secondary education and training. Such information would have provided a better basis to determine whether the future skills needs of the PTRC can be effectively met with the current human resources pool.

Table 6: Highest level of Education Attainment

Figure 9: Highest Level of Education Attainment

Highest Level of Education Attainment	Percentage
None	2.0
Nursery/Kindergarten	3.5
Primary	33.4
Secondary	41.4
Post Secondary	2.1
Tertiary/Non University	5.3
Tertiary/University	5.5
Other	6.8



4.0 AREA ECONOMY

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The economy of the PTRC was for a long time dominated by agriculture and Caroni 1975 Limited was the economic anchor in the Region. At the same time, Princes Town proper developed a reputation for retail shopping and a location for bargains, servicing not just the Region, but also attracting bargain hunters from different parts of the country. Since the closure of Caroni 1975 the retail sector has increased in importance even more.

In addition to the commercial activity there are businesses in agro processing and light manufacturing.

4.2 EMPLOYMENT

Detailed employment figures are not available broken down by Regional Corporation. Based on information in the Situation Report for the Spatial Development Plan, the indication is that the main sources of employment in Princes Town besides Government are wholesale and retail, construction, and agriculture.

4.3 HOUSEHOLD INCOMES AND TRENDS

San Juan/Laventille Diego Martin Tunapuna/Piarco Sangre Grande Port-Of-Spain 5 453 US \$ 25 238 TT \$ Chaguanas 4 468 US\$ 20 597 TTS Tobago 4 594 US \$ ⊞ 21 179 TT \$ Mayaro/Rio Claro San Fernando 7 302 US \$

Penal/Debe

Figure 10: Household Per Capita Income

The per capita household income for the Princes Town Region in 2008-2009 was US\$6,105 or TT\$25,258, the fourth lowest in the country.

Princes Town

4.4 ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Point Fortin

4.4.1 NUMBER AND TYPE OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Based on visual verification the number of businesses in the PTRC is just about 550 of which just over 500 can be classified as micro, small and medium-sized. In a survey of 58 MSMEs 52% of the respondents indicated that their businesses were registered as limited liability companies and 2% were registered as cooperatives. It can therefore be estimated that there are just under 300 registered businesses in the corporation.

The main non-government economic activities in Princes Town are wholesale and retail, agriculture, construction, fishing. Commercial retail activities are concentrated in Princes Town Proper. Restaurants are also concentrated in the town. A number of other business places are found throughout the Region, but it can be estimated that more than two-thirds of established business are located in Princes Town Proper.

As far as fishing is concerned this activity is concentrated in the Moruga area. In 2003, the Home Port and Coast Fishing Vessel Census, the latest year for which such data are available numbered 58 vessels in the PTRC (Grand Chemin 45; L'Anse Mitan River 12 and Marac 1).

4.4.2 CLUSTERS

Based on the natural resources of the Region and the economic activities engaged in, there appears to be potential for moving up at least four value chains – heritage and cultural tourism, fish processing, agro-process and small furniture manufacture

The PTRC has tremendous tourism potential as its many attractions include Christopher Columbus' landing site in Trinidad, the Devil's Woodyard, the Moruga Spring Bridge, Triveni Hindu Temple and Usine St. Madeline Sugar Factory as well as several impressive mud volcanoes and beaches. These sites highlight the vast cultural, religious, historical and natural features of the region.

The tourism sector can be linked back to agriculture and fishing sector. These can reinforce the tourism product as well as be growth poles in their own right.

The fishing area of Moruga and its environs ties besides being the location of Columbus' arrival and the location of best beaches in the Region are a major fishing port in the country. The fish brought ashore in the area, however, is sold without any value added processes such as cleaning and packaging; flash freezing; drying, smoking or salting. All of the catch is sold fresh to middlemen who wholesale and retail in other population centres.

Before the closure of Caroni (1975) Limited, the backbone of the Region was agriculture. Caroni lands remain mainly uncultivated ten years after the Company stopped operations. These lands are fertile and could support a thriving fresh produce and agro-processing cluster.

Moruga recently gained international notoriety when the *Moruga Scorpion Pepper* was judged to be the hottest in the world. Moruga Scorpion is now sold internationally as seeds, seedlings, dehydrated and in various sauces. Yet still no real attempt has been made by the Moruga community, the PTRC or the national government to leverage this situation. Indeed, it is almost impossible to source either fresh scorpion peppers or scorpion pepper seeds in Trinidad and Tobago. The opportunity exist create a cluster for genuine, original, branded range of scorpion pepper products.

Photo 2: International Recognition of Moruga Scorpion Pepper



Almost fifty percent of the land in PTRC is under forest. The forestry activities taking place is limited to extraction and some sawmilling. There is almost no other value added to this important resource.

4.4.4 POTENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT

The economic base of the Region was greatly affected by the closure of Caroni (1975) Limited and the effective end of the sugar industry. Besides the loss of jobs from this closure there have been implications for the land use and the potential for development. On the negative side, land that was formerly under cultivation and bring a return is now fallow and vulnerable to squatting and even inappropriate change of use. The PTBA notes that the proposed expansion in the housing stock in the Region by 5,000 units is going to utilize arable land that is easily accessible to the transportation network. The PTBA notes that given the challenges of the road network in PTRC, it is important that for competitive agriculture that in the short term arable lands close to major thoroughfares should be retained.

On the positive side, with almost fifty percent of the more than 600 square kilometres as arable land and released from inefficient production under Caroni 1975, it is possible to structure a

system of agriculture, with appropriate land tenure that optimises the available land. There is already some specialization taking place with large pineapple cultivations in Tableland. However there are no supporting facilities to maximise the returns.

In order to realise the potential of the agriculture sector, there will have to be a radical change in the strategic thinking and planning and theinfrastructure will have to be significantly improved. Indeed even the facilities for the sale of fresh produce are proving inadequate.

In order to realise the potential of the tourism sector, especially the heritage and cultural tourism segment, a number of preconditions will have to be met, including:

- i. The tourism product that could be offered by the Regions needs to be strategically conceptualised and packaged.
- ii. Significant product development, not physical and non-physical needs to take place.
- iii. The approach to marketing and promotion needs to be developed.
- iv. Facilities to showcase tourism and culture need to be developed

4.5 MSME PROFILE

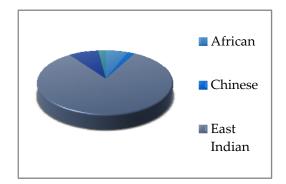
4.5.1 MSME COUNT

The principal tool for the analysis of the MSME sector in Princes Town was a self-selected sample survey of MSMEs. Enumerators visited all business places in the Regional Corporation which were open over a ten-day period and requested the participation of the business. Fifty-eight business out of an estimated 500 participated in the survey for a response rate of just over 10%%

Based on the sample, the breakdown of business ownership by ethnicity is at Table 7 and Figure 11. The vast majority of businesses were owned by persons of East Indian descent.

Table 7: Ethnic Breakdown of Business Ownership Figure 11: Ethnic Breakdown of Business Ownership

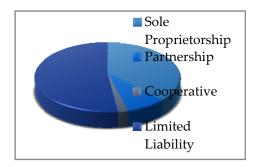
Ethnicity of Principal Owner	Percentage
African	6
Chinese	2
East Indian	82
Mixed	8
Other	2



In 52% of the businesses the principal owner was male, while females headed 26% and 22% were headed jointly by males and females. A majority of the business (52%) were limited liability companies (52%) followed by sole proprietorships (38%).

Table 8: Legal Status of Businesses Figure 12: Legal Status of Businesses

Legal Status	Percentage
Sole Proprietor	38
Partnership	8
Cooperative	2
Limited Liability	52



The businesses in Region have a reasonable length of operation; 56% of them have been in operation for more than ten years, while 22% each have been in operation for 1-5 years and 5-10 years.

4.5.2 MSME SUPPORT SERVICES

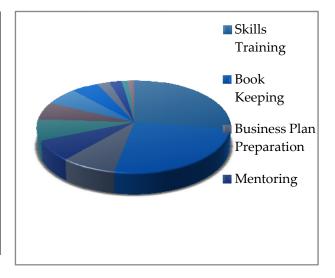
Sixty-four percent of respondents indicated that they need business support. Table X shows the frequency of use of various sources of business support.

In terms of the business supports and training, skills training and book keeping were by far the interventions most frequently needed by 72% and 67% respectively. Only one respondent indicated that he could not access a needed support and that was for skills training.

Table 9: Business Support Interventions Accessed

Intervention	Frequency
Skills Training	72%
Book-Keeping	67%
Business plan preparation	22%
Mentoring	19%
Quality Management	19%
ICT Training	16%
Market Information	16%
Market Access	13%
Product Development	6%
Management Training	6%
Agri Extension services	3%
Labeling/ packaging	3%

Figure 13: Business Support Interventions Accessed

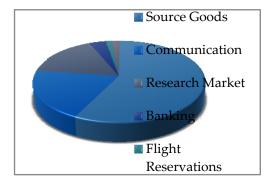


Eighty-six percent of respondents used the Internet. The most frequently cited reason for internet use was to source goods and was given by 81% of those who use the internet.

Table 10: Reasons for Internet Use Fig.

Reason	Frequency
Source goods	81%
Communication	28%
Research market	23%
Banking	5%
Booking flights	2%
Marketing	2%

Figure 14: Reasons for Internet Use



4.5.3 MSME SUPPORT INSTITUITIONS

Princes TownRegional Corporation

The Borough Corporation has considerable facilitative potential. The Corporation is the first stop for many approvals and permits, which MSMEs require for starting and operating

businesses. The Corporation should explore, within its resources, how it can reorient its interaction with the MSME community to facilitate business expansion and retention

NEDCO

The National Entrepreneurship Development Company was established in 2002 as the implementing agency for the Government's policy on small and micro enterprise development. NEDCO is wholly owned by the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The services offered by NEDCO are:

- Funding loans in three categories
 - o I Up to \$50,000
 - o II \$50,001 to \$100,000
 - o III \$100,001 to \$250,000
- Training NEDCO offers standard training modules as well as training in needs-based areas. The standard training modules are in the following areas:
 - o Characteristics of Successful Entrepreneurs
 - o Opportunity Identification
 - Strategies for Success
 - o Basic Business Skills
 - o Effective Management Techniques
 - o Business Planning
 - o Record Keeping & Cash Management
 - o Marketing for SMEs
 - Importing & Exporting
 - Stock Control & Promotion
 - o Why Entrepreneurship?
 - o Total Quality Management.
 - A to Z of Running a Small Business
- Business advisory services The main advisory service offered is business plan development
- Business Incubation The National Integrated Business System (IBIS) mix of business
 development support, infrastructure and operational and financial support to assist the
 micro and small enterprises by providing assistance in the areas of mentoring, start-up
 procedures, infrastructural support, Information Technology, operational support,
 financing and opportunities for access to markets in one location.
- Promotion NEDCO facilitates participation in marketing and distribution initiatives such as NEDCO's annual Trade Fair and NEDCO Day at it local centres.

A new initiative, complementary to NEDCO, is the National Integrated Business Incubator System (IBIS). This initiative will provide structured training over six months to selected entrepreneurs, assist them to develop a business plan and then provide space at minimal cost along with the potential of affordable long term financing for the fledgling business. The Point

Fortin / Siparia area will pilot this initiative and the first intake is occurring now.

NEDCO has a network of local centres. In Princes Town the NEDCO Centre is located at 3 Manahambre Road.

Princes Town Business Association

The Princes Town Business Association (PTBA) was founded in 2005 with the support of the central government in response to agitation by the business community that planning was taking place in Princes Town without sufficient input from the business community. The PTBA continues to dissatisfied with the level of engagement by both central and local government authorities in the development of the Region.

The PTBA serves mainly as interest group to articulate the concerns of it members. The PTBA does not have a structured programme for business support and so plays very little role in supporting MSMEs. The PTBA is potentially a powerful source of MSME support. At present the membership of the PTBA is 50.

Credit Unions

One credit union has an office in Princes Town:

Muslim Credit Union Rainbow Mall High Street Princes Town

Muslim Credit Union is a national organisation with a solid asset base. Hindu Credit Union also had a branch in Princes Town. When HCU went bankrupt a large number of residents of PTRC were negatively affected. At least once business owner pointed out that savings to expand their business were lost in the crash of HCU.

Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme

The Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) Limited is a training organization with a focus on Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) throughout Trinidad and Tobago. The company plays a strategic role in addressing the issues of youth unemployment as well as retrenched and displaced citizens. YTEPP Limited offers a diverse range of vocational courses in 12 occupational areas. Training is conducted in six-month, ninemonth and 10-month cycles. The Programme is open to eligible persons who are interested in entrepreneurship or acquiring Level I and II (pre-craft and craft) technical vocational training.

YTEPP has two training centres in Princes Town Region. They are located at the Princes Town West Secondary School, East Mathilda Junction, Princes Town and Barrackpore West Secondary School, 6 1/4 mm Papourie Road, Barrackpore.

The Princes Town Centre Offers Courses in:

- Domestic Refrigeration Servicing and Repair
- Dress Making and Design
- Engine Tune-up/Troubleshooting
- Events Decoration
- Plumbing
- Small Business Management
- Sound Engineering Assistant
- Tailoring
- Tour Guide (Escort)

The Barrackpore Centre offers courses in:

- Child Care Attendant
- Dress Making and Design
- Engine Tune-up/Troubleshooting
- Fabricating
- Masonry
- Small Business Management (Micro)
- Small Pats and Simple Tool Making
- Sound Engineering Assistant
- Tour Guide (Escort)
- Vegetable Production-Grow Box System

The Ministry of Food Production

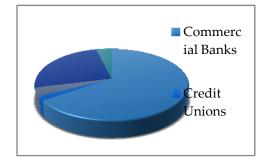
The Ministry of Food Production offers extension and other services to farmers and fisherfolk. The Ministry provides training and awareness interventions for the general public and for youth. The Ministry has its main location for the County of Victoria in Princes Town, located at Breeding Unit Trace, Praignish, Princess Town .

4.5.4 SOURCES OF FUNDING

The two main sources of funding for business in this Region are commercial banks and family savings with 68% and 26% receiving funds from these two sources.

Table 11: Principal Source of Funds Figure 15: Principal Source of Funds

Source	Percentage
Commercial Banks	68
Family Savings	26
NEDCO	4
Credit Unions	2
Development Bank	2



4.5.5 EMPLOYMENT

In the fifty-eight business surveyed there were a total of 455 employees of which 238 or 52.3% were male and 217 or 47.7% were female. The average number of employees in MSMEs was just under 8. This is consistent with the number of retail establishments in the sample. It could be estimated therefore that the MSME sector employs some 4,000 persons in PTRC. Seventy-four percent of the businesses indicated that were able to source sufficient employees from within the Region.

4.5.6 EXPORTS

None of the MSMEs interviewed indicated that they exported.

4.5.7 INCOME GENERATED

We were unable to determine the income generated by the sector, since many respondents felt that this information was confidential and did not share it. It should be noted though that some respondents did admit that they were unaware of the income generated by their businesses or what it was worth.

4.5.8 CHALLENGES

Respondents were offered an option of eighteen issues which might they believe might negatively affect their businesses. In Table the frequency issues most likely to affect their business negatively is listed. The top two issues relate to management of vehicular traffic. This is no doubt mainly the concern in Princes Town Proper and reflects the importance of retail trade to the business community. Packaging of products is listed lastly and is reflective of the low level of value added to products done in the Region.

Table 12: Frequency of Challenges to Business Performance

Issue	Frequency
Parking	54%
Traffic congestion	46%
Crime	32%
Government Regulations	20%
Energy costs	20%
Infrastructure	20%
Corruption	18%
Access to raw materials	16%
Business support services	16%
Market	16%
Marketing	14%
Access to credit	12%
Management Skills	10%
Transport	10%
Bureaucracy	10%
Quality of products	8%
Price of products	8%
Packaging of products	4%

4.5.9 REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

When asked what they considered to be the most important interventions to be taken by Government in support of the business sector, reduction of crime was by far the most frequently listed issue by 46% of respondents. Ten percent or more of respondents listed three other issues: reduction of import duties (20%), reduction of processing time at Customs (10%) and reduction of taxes (10%). The concerns for the reduction in import duties and the reduction of the transaction cost of customs clearance is indicative of the importance of the importing to the business community.

Table 13: Government Support Interventions

Intervention	Frequency
Reduce crime	46%
Reduce import duties	20%
Reduce processing time at customs	10%
Reduce taxes	10%
Give incentives to small business	4%
Create jobs in industries	4%
Provide skills training	4%

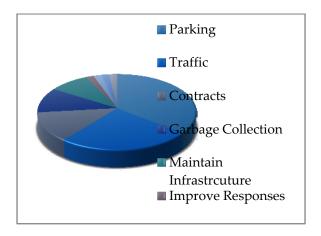
Improve roads	4%
Increase parking	4%
Reduce interest rates on loans	4%
Bring back sugar cane industry to south	2%
Develop tourism	2%
Make NIB more efficient	2%
Stop or regulate Indian expos	2%
Reliable water supply	2%
Funding	2%
Improve drainage	2%
Invest in Princes Town	2%
Regulate forestry	2%
Regulate government funded projects	2%
Assist in marketing	2%

In terms of supports that could be provided for businesses by the Regional Corporation, issues related to traffic were most frequently identified.

Table 14: Regional Corporation Supports Recommended

Regional Corporation Intervention	Frequency Recommended
Parking	40%
Traffic	28%
Allocate more contracts to business in the Region	14%
Garbage	12%
Maintain Infrastructure	10%
Take and respond to complaints	2%
Provide additional restroom facilities	2%
Improve taxi stands	2%
Create business association	2%
Create workers/skills database	2%

Figure 16: Business Support Intervention by Regional Corporations

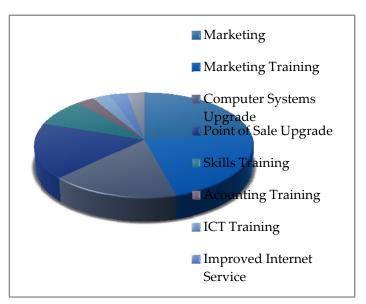


Respondents listed a number of areas of technical assistance, which they thought were necessary for business expansion in the PTRC. The most frequently issues cited were related to marketing.

Table 15: Areas of Technical Assistance Required for Business Development

Technical Assistance	Frequency
Area	
Marketing	16%
Marketing training	16%
Upgrade computer	12%
system	
Upgrade point of sale	12%
equipment	
Skills training	6%
Accounting training	2%
ICT training	2%
Improved internet	2%
service	
Upgrade equipment	2%

Figure 17: Requirements for Business Expansion



4.6 OTHER FACTORS AFFECTING MSMES

4.6.1 INFRASTRCUTURE

PTRC has good access to its western boundaries. The roads within the regional corporation, however, present many different kinds of challenges. Within Princes Town Proper it is clear that the Main Road, which serves as both the main "through-fare" as well as the main business

Photo 3: Road Conditions



district has outlived it effectiveness as a communication medium. Minor adjustments have proved inadequate to significantly alleviate the congestion and shortage of parking.

In rural parts of the Corporation and even along the main approach to Princes Town, land movement has made road maintenance difficult.

A major contributor to the state of the roads in the Region is the geological formations. This

instability is best evidenced by the existence of mud volcanoes in Devil's Wood Yard and Piparo and the high susceptibility to landslides in other areas.

According research conducted by Genivar Trinidad and Tobago for the preparation of Municipal Development Plan, "The majority of households (61.2%) access water via public inhouse, public in-yard or private catchment systems leaving 38.8% who require service upgrades. Irrespective of access, only 39.3% have continuous water supply. Most households (56.1%) use septic tank facilities with the majority of the remainder (38.9%) using pit latrines. Only 4.1% are connected to a sewer system..

"With respect to water and sewerage, southern Trinidad is among the regions of the country that is the least well served. Part of the problem is associated with the age of the system. As much as 80% of the mains have outlived their design life and are subject to leakage and high levels of unaccounted for water. There are six wastewater catchment areas at Corinth, Barrackpore, La Fortune and Moruga. However, only two sewerage treatment facilities exist with one at BuenIntendo which is in fair to poor condition and a private facility at the Moruga Composite School. Improvements to both water supply and waste water management and treatment are urgently needed."

Electricity distribution in the main business areas is 100 per cent. In the entire Region 3.7% of the population is without electricity.

4.6.3 ICT PENETRATION

Most of the Region has access to broadband ICT connections through the Telecommunication Services of Trinidad and Tobago Limited. The main business and residential areas are well served.

4.6.4 SOCIAL INFRASTRCUTURE

Education Facilities

PTRC has within its boundaries forty-nine primary schools and thirteen secondary schools. There are two branch libraries of the National Library and Information System. These are located in Princes Town and in Moruga. There are also the training activities operated NEDCO, YTEPP and the Ministry of Food Production. In addition there are centres which facilitate external courses of study for other institutions.

Health Facilities

There are 8 government-operated health facilities in PTRC – one is designated a "District Health Facility" and the others are district health centres. The District Health Facility was preciously the Princes Town District Hospital. It has been downgraded and no longer provideaa 24 hour stayin facility.

Citizen Safety and Security

There are five police stations and one police post in the PTRC. There is just one fire station located within the boundaries of the Corporation. It is proposed to locate a new fire station in Barrackpore.

Cultural and Sporting Facilities

There are a total of 42 recreation grounds/play parks located in the PTRC

4.6.5 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Environmental protection for all of Trinidad and Tobago falls under the purview of the Environmental Management Authority and municipal corporations have only limited responsibility mainly for solid waste management; public health issues related to insect vector, canine and rodent control; environmental issues related to land and building development within the guidelines of the Town and Country Planning Division.

4.6.6 NATURAL HAZARDS

Figure 19: Hazard Impact 2006-2011

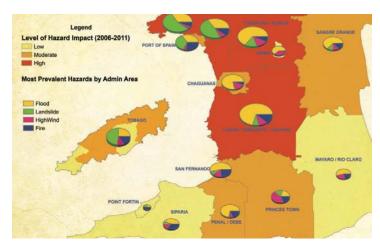
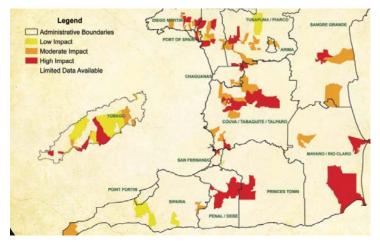


Figure 18: Flood Susceptibility



The Office of Disaster
Preparedness and Management
(ODPM) in its analysis of hazard
impact for 2006-2011 ranks
Princes Town's susceptibility to
natural hazards as moderate. The
most prevalent hazards in PTRC
in order were high wind; flood,
fire and landslide are fire, flood
and landslides.

Flood and landslide susceptibility are both greatest in west centre of the PTRC.

The Disaster Management Unit of the PTRC developed a Disaster Management Plan in 2011.

4.6.7 ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

No specific evidence of environmental degradation was identified. There are a few abandoned oil wells, but these are not widespread.

4.6.8 PROTECTED AREAS

No special protected areas have been identified that could impact economic activity

5.0 LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

5.1 INTRODUCTION

The model for Local Economic Development (LED) varies from community to community as it is most successful when it is developed and driven from within by local leaders and stakeholders. In general, however, a successful LED model will include a commitment and resources from local government, along with the private business, public institutional and education sectors.

The PTBA asserts that it is committed to a collaborative approach to local economic development and laments that both the central government and the regional corporation are not of the same mindset.

The PTRC is constrained by both financial and human resources issues. Ideally there should be at least one professional position in the staff of the Regional Corporation who primary, if not exclusive responsibility should be economic development. However, the staff positions for the PRTC and all other municipalities are determined by the Central Government.

It its recommended that a LED-minded 'champion' should be hired as Economic Development Officer by Princes Town to lead LED mindset creation and herd projects through the governance/administration labyrinth officer by Princes Town to lead LED mindset creation and herd projects through the government/administration labyrinth officer by Princes Town to lead LED mindset creation could bring a greater understanding of how government reform combined with LED thinking will result in meeting MSME creation objectives as well as using the tourist magnets such as Devil's Woodyard and Moruga to be catalysts for planned spin-off opportunities

5.2 LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRCUTURE AND APPROACH TO LED

Local governments in Trinidad and Tobago, like the PTRC, operate largely as extensions of the central government, with significant limits on local autonomy and resource allocation. Planning, purchasing, budgeting and staffing are largely controlled by the Ministry of Local Government and the Ministry of Town and Country Planning.

In that context, the PTRC's goal for LED is summarized as "to ensure that a competitive, diversified economy through in- vestments is developed...[and] to ensure that employment opportunities are created that reflect the creativity, skills, and interest of residents." (MOLG 2010)

Table 16: SWOT Analysis

Strength

- Abundant creative and community assets
- Available land for housing agriculture and eco tourism
- Strong agricultural tradition
- Abundant natural resources, particularly oil, gas, fish and timber
- Concentration of commercial activity
- Good supply of education and training institutions

Weaknesses

- Local government system not conducive to facilitating LED
- Weak public-private partnership between the local government authorities and the business community
- Inadequate road network
- Road infrastructure extensively damaged and in a state of disrepair in many areas as a result of geological features
- Traffic congestion, especially in Princes Town proper
- Inadequate parking facilities
- Vulnerability to flooding
- Unreliable public utilities

Opportunities

- Local government reform could strengthen the potential for LED
- Lands available for distribution for commercial farming
- Reintroduction of large scale farming
- Creation of agribusiness clusters

Threats

- Increase in flooding
- Increase in costal erosion
- Deforestation and land slippage
- Increase in squatting and unplanned development
- Loss of agriculture capacity to unemployment relief programmes
- Loss agriculture land
- Increase in traffic congestion
- Low levels of confidence in the system of government – central and local

In Trinidad and Tobago, local governments do not raise their own revenues and the collection of property has been suspended for the last four. This disconnect means that one of the primary motivators for local government LED development – increased economic activity and land values leading to increased local revenue – does not exist.

At present, Government is in the process of finalizing its Local Government Reform agenda. Efforts were made to engage local communities in consultations across the country. The government's proposed Policy on Local Government Transformation and Modernisation has several proposals, which if implemented, shift more autonomy to municipalities.

In terms of economic development, the proposed policy discusses the need for greater revenues and some additional flexibility at the local level and also suggests a multi-agency approach to support community-based projects in tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, arts and crafts etc. For the most part, however, economic development seems to be organized around investment

attraction at a national level and capital investment projects at the local level.

CARILED is interested in advancing MSMEs as a basis for LED in the target communities and specifically addressing disparities in participation by youth and women.

5.3 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

In 2009, the Ministry of Local Government initiated a process which resulted in the PTRC Municipal Development Plan (MDP). This comprehensive plan captures current land uses along with constraints and opportunities, as well as conceptual plans for community growth along with proposed land uses. Although not specifically intended as an economic development strategic plan, the document makes recommendations in terms of priority projects that will benefit the community and align with the growth plan.

6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CARILED PARTICIPATION

6.1 TOURISM PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

CARILED provide Technical Assistance to develop operational and business plans for the Moruga Beach Project and the other tourist attractions in PTRC. This assistance should cover areas such as:

- Strategic planning
- Product development and branding
- Promotion and marketing

7.2 LED CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

One of the deficits relating to viable LED is knowledge of the approach by stakeholders in the PTRC. CARILED should provide technical assistance to support:

- The formation of Public Private Partnerships, including:
 - Trust building initiatives
 - o Public-private dialogue mechanism
- Developing an internal and external communications plan including defining the brand
- The development of MSMEs with a special emphasis on business retention and expansion
- The development of capacity with the PTRC to facilitate the incubation of clusters.

7.3 MSME BUSINESS ASSISTANCE AND TRAINING

The PTRC should examine the results of the MSME survey and take notice of the expressed needs of the business community. In particular the PTRC should leverage its position to facilitate the partnerships with institutions and organisations with the capacity to deliver needs-based training in response to business. If the Trinidad and Tobago government would fund a pilot, CARILED could provide technical assistance based on existing models of small business support like the Ontario Small Business Enterprise Centres.

7.4 RECIPROCAL EXCHANGES

CARILED should give consideration to bringing key local government personnel from Trinidad to spend time with Canadian municipal and economic development administrations. Seeing LED in action and exchanging ideas from an active municipal standpoint could prove beneficial both to the individuals involved and to their home communities.

8.0	TOOLS USED
8.1	MSME SURVEY

CARILED MSME PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE

the su		dev	elopn	nent of	micro	0,	small a			ion strate um ente	Ü	
Ref:												
Municip	al			Sub di	vision			Coc	de		Initials	
SECT	SECTION A: PROFILE OF THE RESPONDENT											
1. Are you: Over 35 years old: under 35 years old:									d: 🗌			
2.	Gender	4.	Mal	e:					Fe	emale:		
3.	What is	s you	r pos	ition in	this b	us —	iness?					
4.	What is	s the	ethni	city of t	he pri	inc	ripal own	ner(s	s) of t	the busin	ess?	
	African		Ame	rindian			Chinese			East India	an Eur	opean 🗌
Other Syria		an/Lebanese			Mixed							
5.	Gender	of th	ne Pri	ncipal (owner	(s)	of the b	usin	ness:			
		Male	::	_		F	emale:]	Both:	

SECTION B: PROFILE OF THE BUSINESS

13. How many people,	including y	ourself and a	ny fa	mily, v	work in the				
business: Male		Femal	e						
 14. Are non-family members employed in the business? : Yes: No: No: a. (If yes) how many of them come from outside this municipal corporation:									
SECTION C:	SECTION C: MARKET PROFILE								
16. What are the main all that apply):	activities o	r sectors in w	hich	you o _l	perate? (Please	tick			
Agro processing	Anima	al Husbandry		Cottag	ge/light industry				
Craft	Fisher	ies		Food					
ICT	Prima	ry agriculture		Retail	& Distribution				
Services (other than retail)	Touris	sm:		Other:					
Specify									
17. What is the Primary	market of	the business							
Within the Corporation	Country-wide		nal		International				
18. Do you export? Yes: No: a. (if Yes) Your primary export market:									

b. (if Yes) W	(if Yes) What Percent of your sales come from exports?									
c. (if No) W	ould yo	u like to export?:	Υe	es: No:						
d. Which thr	ee Cour	ntries would be your	prio	rity?						
		_								
TION D:		BUSINESS DEVI	ELOI	PMENT						
` ,	2	nave received busines ousiness), who provid		. .	T					
Self		Local Government		NGO						
International Organisation		Business Support Org.		Government Ministry						
University		Technical/ Vocational Inst		Internet						
Other (Specify)										
, , ,		* *	t/assi	stance & training was	S					
b. (if Yes)Whreceived (* *	t/assi	stance & training was	5					
received (hat apply)	t/assi		5					

	Market Access		Book-Keeping		Labelling / packaging	
•	Skills Training		ICT Training		Quality Management	
ļ	Other:					
_			ve not received such ou could not get:	supp	oort, please specify wl	hat
-						
_						
20.	in the (Insert How does the busin	mun ess k	cicipal corporation)?	Yes:[ed
-	could affect your bu	sine	ss? :			
_						
21.	. What kinds of techn business?:	ical :	assistance do you nec	ed no	ow to grow your	
•						
-						

22. On a scale of 1-5, indicate the impact of the issues that are likely to hinder

the development of your business (with 5 being the most likely):

ICCLIEC	Lea	st Likel	y	Most Likely			
ISSUES	1	2	3	4	5		
Access to credit							
Access to raw materials							
Bureaucracy							
Business support services							
Corruption							
Crime							
Energy costs							
Government Regulations							
Infrastructure							
Management skills							
Market							
Marketing							
Packaging of your products							
Parking							
Price of your products							
Quality of your products							
Traffic congestion							
Transport							

23.	What Government regulations do you believe hinder the growth your business? (please be as specific as you can):
_	
24.	Do you use the internet for business related purposes? Yes: No:
	a. (if Yes) For what business purposes do you use the internet?
-	

25.	What do you think the Central Government can do to make businesses like yours grow?
-	
26.	What do you think the (insert Name of the Local Government Authority) can do to make business like your grow?
-	
Additi	ional Comments from Enumerator:
-	

Thanks for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.

8.2 TRUST IN GOVERNANCE

R	Δĺ	¢,
11	e	п

Munic	ipal		Sub division		Code		Init	ials			
1.	Are	you: More than 35	years	Less than 3	35 years:						
2.	Gen	der: Male:		Fe	male:						
3.	Wha	at do you conside	r your ethnicity:	African	East Ir	ndian 🗌 Mix	ed [] A	mer	indi	an
4.	Doy	you know the name	e of your local go	vernment r	epresent	ative	Y		N		
		of 1 to 5, how strondisagreement and		O	e with th	ne following s	tateı	nen	ts, w	her	e
5.	I tru	st the central gove	rnment of Trinid	ad and Toba	ago		1	2	3	4	5
6.	I tru	st the local govern	ment authorities	in my area			1	2	3	4	5
7.		satisfied with the esentative	performance of r	ny local gov	vernmen	t	1	2	3	4	5
8.	The	local government i	is doing a good jo	ob			1	2	3	4	5
9.	The	elected local gover	nment represent	atives are co	ompeten	t	1	2	3	4	5
10.	The	local government	officials are comp	etent			1	2	3	4	5
11.		residents of the cor norities	poration have ac	cess to the l	ocal gove	ernment	1	2	3	4	5
12.		isions by the centra uenced by business	C	thorities are	e normal	ly heavily	1	2	3	4	5
13.		isions by the centra uenced by the ethni	C			ly heavily	1	2	3	4	5
14.		isions by the local guenced by business		orities are n	ormally	heavily	1	2	3	4	5

15.	Decisions by the local government authorities are normally heavily influenced by ethnic group controlling the corporation	1	2	3	4	5
16.	Local government authorities distort facts in their favour	1	2	3	4	5
17.	The local government authorities have effective consultations with residents in the area	1	2	3	4	5
18.	The local government authorities listen to the concerns of ordinary citizens	1	2	3	4	5
19.	The local government authorities makes decisions in a fair and transparent manner	1	2	3	4	5
20.	The local government authorities have their priorities right	1	2	3	4	5
21.	The local government authorities deliver services efficiently	1	2	3	4	5

22.	What are the issues with which you are most satisfied with the performance of your loc					
	government representatives:					
23.	What are the issues with which you are least satisfied with the performance of your local					
23.	What are the issues with which you are least satisfied with the performance of your local government representatives:					
23.						
23.						
23.						
23.						

8.3 LAEP PROFILE QUESTIONNAIRE

Municipal	Sub division	Code	Initials	
manierpar				

SECTION A – GENERAL INFORMATION (To be completed by the enumerator)							
1.	Name of Key Informant						
2.	Gender of Key Informant (circle one)	M		F			
SECTION B -							
3.	Are you under 35 years of age? (circle one)	<35		<35 >3			
4.	What do you consider your ethnicity?						
SI	ECTION C						
5.	What factors do you believe hinder economic development in (insert the name of the local government corporation)?						
6.	. What factors do you believe hinder economic development in this subdivision?						

7.	What resources do you believe this subdivision has that can be used for economic development?							
8.	What resources do you believe this subdivision has that can be used for economic development?							
SEC	SECTION D - CRIME							
9.	How serious is the impact of crime on business in the area (where 1 is lowest impact and 5 is highest impact)	1	2	3	4	5		
10.	Hoe satisfied are you with the efforts of the authority to fight crime in the area (where 1 is lowest impact and 5 is highest impact)	1	2	3	4	5		
11.	Do you agree that crime in the areas is committed mainly by one ethnic group (where 1 is lowest agreement and 5 is highest agreement)	1	2	3	4	5		
12.	Is praedial larceny an issue in the area (circle one)	Y		N		DK		
13.	Is the police represented on local community councils or committees in the area	Y		N		DK		
14.	Are there neighbourhood watches in the area?	Y		N		DK		

9.0 SOURCES OF INFORMATION

9.1 PRIMARY SOURCES

Chairman, Princes Town Regional Corporation

CouncillorChindra

Councillor Downing

Councillor Gomez

Chief Executive Officer, Princes Town Regional Corporation

Mr. TaurelTeelucksingh, President, Princes Town Business Association

9.2 SECONDARY SOURCES

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9.3 WEBSITES

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National Energy Skills Centre: http://www.nesctt.org/

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Government of Trinidad and Tobago, Ministry of Finance: finance.gov.tt

Government of Trinidad and Tobago, Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development: planning.gov.tt

Government of Trinidad and Tobago, Ministry of Local Government: localgov.gov.tt