

# Head 26: Ministry of Education

A summary of the Ministry's Expenditure, Divisions and Projects  
Financial Scrutiny Unit, Parliament of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## Table of Contents

About this Guide.....	3
Head 26 – Ministry of Education.....	4
Ministry Overview.....	4
Divisions/Programmes.....	6
Key Statement from 2016 Standing Finance Committee Debate.....	13
Where the Ministry spends its money .....	14
2017-2018 Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure .....	14
Summary of Estimates for Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2012-2018 .....	15
Staff and Pay .....	20
Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses Fund (GATE) .....	21
The Ministry’s total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2012 to 2018. ....	22
Analysis and Summary of Expenditure.....	23
Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2012-2018 .....	25
Noteworthy Development Programme Estimates in 2017-2018.....	27
Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2016-2017 .....	28
New Projects for the Financial Year 2017-2018.....	29
Major Programmes and Development for the Period 2016 to 2018 .....	30
Auditor General Report Findings for the Fiscal year 2016 .....	31
Committee Inquires Related to the Ministry of Education .....	33
Similar Ministries in Other Jurisdictions .....	36

## About this Guide

This guide provides a summary of expenditure for the Ministry of Education for the period 2012-2018. It provides the Members of Parliament and stakeholders with an overview of the Ministry's responsibilities. The primary purpose of this guide is to consolidate the information contained within the various Budget Documents pertaining to the Ministry of Education and provide readers with an analysis of same. This guide is based primarily on the Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure, the Estimates of Development Programme, the Public Sector Investment Programme and the Auditor General's Report on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the fiscal year 2016.

# Head 26 – Ministry of Education

## Ministry Overview<sup>1</sup>

### **Background**

The Ministry of Education (MOE) is the government entity responsible for the management and administration of public education in Trinidad.

### **Mission**

**To educate and develop children who are:**

- able to fulfill their full potential;
- healthy and growing normally;
- academically balanced;
- well-adjusted socially and culturally; and
- emotionally mature and happy.

### **Vision**

The Ministry is a high performing and dynamic organization leading a quality education system that is responsive to the diverse needs of 21st century learners to contribute to the education and versatility of holistically developed children who are able to satisfy the human capital needs and sustainable development of society.

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<sup>1</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.edu.tt/>

## Agencies

The Ministry of Education is the Government's leading advisor on the education system. As such, it is tasked with the responsibility of shaping the direction of the educational agencies and providers that operate within Trinidad and Tobago. Some of these agencies include:

- The National Training Agency (NTA)
- The Schools of Nursing and Midwifery
- Metal Industries Company Institute of Technology (MIC)
- The National Energy Skills Center (NESCC)
- The University of the West Indies St. Augustine (UWI, St. Augustine Campus)
- The Accreditation Council of Trinidad and Tobago (ACTT)
- The College of Science, Technology and Applied Arts of Trinidad and Tobago (COSTAATT)
- Trinidad and Tobago Hospitality and Tourism Institute (THTTI)
- National Examinations Council (NEC)
- The Local School Boards
- The University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT)<sup>2</sup>

**Minister of Education, the Honourable Anthony Garcia**

**Minister of State in the Ministry of Education, The Honourable Dr. Lovell Francis**

**Permanent Secretary - Ms. Angela Sinaswee- Gervais (Accounting Officer)**

**Permanent Secretary - Mrs. Lenore Baptiste-Simmons<sup>3</sup>**

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<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Agencies>

<sup>3</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/About>

# Divisions/Programmes

## **Distance Learning Secretariat (DLS)**

The Distance Learning Secretariat is involved in re-engineering and connecting Learning Access and Human Development to support the development of a Lifelong Learning System in Trinidad and Tobago. The Secretariat is responsible for ensuring the development and implementation of strategies related to distance learning.<sup>4</sup>

## **Educational Facilities Planning and Procurement Division (EFPPD)**

The Educational Facilities Planning and Procurement Division was established in accordance with Cabinet Minute Number 603 of 2010. The Ministry established central control of all its asset management activities and functions under one (1) Division, thus allowing for greater overall efficiency in the delivery of these services at the Districts and the School level. The large volume and high value of assets demanded that the Strategic Apex of the Ministry retain responsibility for policy formulation and strategic planning for the maintenance, safety and security of these assets.<sup>5</sup>

## **Examinations Unit**

The Examinations Unit has the responsibility for:

- The administration of the following National, Regional and International examinations;
- The Registration and Examination Dates;
- The Release of Results;
- The Processing of Applications for Certified Statements and Transcripts and
- The Verification of Results for Educational and Professional Institutions<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Distance-Learning>

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/EFPPD>

<sup>6</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Examinations-Unit>

## Financial Assistance Studies Programme (FASP)

The Financial Assistance (Studies) Programme is a government initiative designed to assist students in the pursuit of a post-secondary qualification or first undergraduate qualification. The assistance is given in the form of a grant and acts as a supplementary fund to which applying does not guarantee funding. The grant can be accessed only once as it works in tandem with the student's existing financial plans. Successful awardees would be required to enter into an agreement with the government to work within the territory of Trinidad and Tobago for a period specified. Any breach in the agreement on the part of the student would result in the grant being converted to a loan.<sup>7</sup>

## Educational Planning Division

Established in 1964, the Educational Planning Division is responsible for the formulation and implementation of Government's policy with respect to on-going reform of the education system in the context of national development. The Division is divided into the following sections offering the followings services:

- **Programming Section** - The Programming Section provides support to all Divisions and Units of the Ministry to bring consistent planning across the Ministry's initiatives and operations. The Section prepares country reports, papers for presentation at national, regional and international workshops and seminars, and provides technical support to all divisions of the MOE in areas related to educational planning.
- **Statistics Section** - collects, collates, disseminates and maintains a system of data collection to inform the policies, projects and programmes to be developed and executed in the educational system. It also provides accurate, relevant and timely information for the effective monitoring and evaluating the formation of those policies, projects and programmes.
- **Facilities Section** - develops and maintains the educational adequacy and efficiency standards for school facilities by managing the services and processes that support school infrastructural improvement.

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<sup>7</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Financial-Assistance-Studies-Programme-FASP>

- **Business Planning Unit (BPU)** - is tasked with strengthening the Ministry's strategic planning process by monitoring the deliverables identified in the Ministry's Corporate Plan and the integrated Business Plan
- **Policy Support Unit** - The Policy Support Unit is charged with advising and providing support to Divisions/Units in the formulation education policies.
- **Educational Planning Library** - The Educational Planning Library provides library services in support of educational planning in the Ministry.<sup>8</sup>

### **Division of Educational Research and Evaluation (DERE)**

The DERE was established on October 21st, 1994, based on recommendations made by the National Task Force on Education, 1993. The DERE is a key player in the process of reforming the Ministry of Education. It is involved in all the initiatives aimed at strengthening the planning, management and implementation capability of the organisation in its thrust for increased efficiency and effectiveness.<sup>9</sup>

### **The Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP)**

The Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP) is available to citizens of Trinidad and Tobago under 50 years of age who have been accepted and are enrolled in a tertiary level programme within CARICOM. The applicant must complete a HELP Application Form. The loan is available to part-time or full-time, employed or unemployed students. Applicants who do not meet the age criterion may on review be given special consideration. The loan is available to part-time or full-time, employed or unemployed students.<sup>10</sup>

### **The Teaching and Teacher Development Division**

The Teaching and Teacher Development Division (TTDD) is the arm of the Ministry of Education which is responsible for the professional development of all teachers in our education system: E.C.C.E., Primary and Secondary Levels.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Office-of-the-CEO/Educational-Planning-Division>

<sup>9</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 [http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Office-of-the-CEO/Educational\\_Research\\_and\\_Evaluation](http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Office-of-the-CEO/Educational_Research_and_Evaluation)

<sup>10</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Higher-Education-Loan-Programme-HELP>

<sup>11</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/The-Teaching-and-Teacher-Development-Division>



### **The Scholarships and Advanced Training Division**

The Scholarships and Advanced Training Division has responsibility for the administration of scholarships and long-term technical assistance awards offered by/ through the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. Government scholarships enable nationals to acquire skills and training in areas that are critical to the development of the country.<sup>12</sup>

### **Human Resource Management Division**

The Human Resource Management Division's (HRMD) major role is to contribute to individual and organisational success by creating and sustaining a working environment based on performance and leadership; attracting and retaining committed employees who share the Ministry's values; and ensuring consistency with business objectives.<sup>13</sup>

### **Monitoring and Evaluation Unit**

The Unit was established in 2013 and its main purpose is to assist in developing a sustainable monitoring and evaluation system that can provide a consistent flow of information on the progress and performance of the Ministry's initiatives to inform policy development, review, budgeting and decision making. The Unit plays an important role in facilitating and supporting continuous improvement in the Ministry of Education through Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). The M&E Unit utilizes the Results-Based Management (RBM) approach to M&E.<sup>14</sup>

### **The Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses Programme (GATE)**

The Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses Programme (GATE) is administered by the Funding and Grants Administration Division of the Ministry of Education – Tertiary Education Division. The objectives of the GATE programme are:

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<sup>12</sup> Government of Trinidad and Tobago website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://www.scholarships.gov.tt/home/index.php/about-us>

<sup>13</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/HR>

<sup>14</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Monitoring-and-Evaluation>

- To make tertiary education affordable to all so that no citizen of Trinidad and Tobago will be denied tertiary education because of their inability to pay.
- To widen access to tertiary education that will support economic development and promote social equity.
- To build and strengthen a national quality tertiary education sector through both public and private tertiary level institutions.<sup>15</sup>

### **Spanish Implementation Secretariat (SIS)**

The Secretariat for the Implementation of Spanish or SIS was formed under Cabinet Directive on September 9th 2004 and formally launched on March 22nd 2005. The objectives of the Secretariat for the Implementation of Spanish (SIS) are:

- To facilitate a new learning environment through which the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago will learn and effectively utilise Spanish as the First Foreign Language (SAFFL) by the year 2020.
- To promote fruitful and effective intercultural dialogue.
- To promote public awareness and support for the Spanish as the First Foreign Language (SAFFL) initiative.<sup>16</sup>

### **Curriculum Planning and Development Division (CPDD)**

The CPDD functions as champions of the school curriculum which serves as a medium for ensuring that students achieve the value outcomes as stated in the Mission Statement of the Ministry of Education. The CPDD therefore helps to bring policy to fruition through the curriculum development process. The Division makes use of research on best practices for curriculum development and implementation to achieve educational objectives. It also makes recommendations on the acceptability and implications of curriculum offerings which have been developed regionally and internationally. The other major objective is to support the achievement of a seamless education system that will ensure that students are afforded real opportunities for holistic development mindful of their individual educational needs.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Government-Assistance-for-Tuition-Expenses-Programme-GATE>

<sup>16</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Spanish-Implementation-Secretariat-SIS>

<sup>17</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Office-of-the-CEO/CPDD>

## School Supervision

The Division of School Supervision is responsible for:

- Providing direction for the development of schools in keeping with the strategic plan of the Ministry of Education.
- Ensuring quality standards by supervising, inspecting and evaluating the operation of schools.
- Leading the professional development of principals and teachers through programme proposals, training seminars and workshops.
- Ensuring the development of school-based management.
- Providing a rich resource of exemplary coaching, training and apprenticeship for teachers and school administrators.<sup>18</sup>

## Student Support Services Division (SSSD)

Established in 2004, the Student Support Services Division (SSSD) delivers an array of psycho-social, educational and behavioural services for students to provide environments which support their healthy development, enabling them to become responsible, productive citizens. The Division provides a comprehensive and well-coordinated array of psycho-social support services to students which include specialized services for children with moderate and severe Special Educational needs, behavioural issues, clinical issues and career guidance.<sup>19</sup>

## Textbook Management Unit

The Textbook Management Unit (TMU) is a division in the Ministry of Education which is responsible for the management and administration of all the facets of the Textbook Rental Loan Programme (TRLP). The programme aims to provide textbooks and other learning materials for students at Primary, Secondary and Special Education schools. It ensures that all students have affordable and easy

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<sup>18</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Office-of-the-CEO/SchoolSupervision/Roles-and-Function1>

<sup>19</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Office-of-the-CEO/Student-Support-Services>

access to the learning materials required for the core curriculum areas. It also forms part of the Ministry's efforts towards achieving equity in the provision of educational opportunities and levelling the playing field in gaining access to education.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Ministry of Education website accessed 24/Aug/2017 <http://moe.gov.tt/Services/Office-of-the-CEO/Textbook-Management-Unit>

## Key Statement from 2016 Standing Finance Committee Debate

During the Standing Finance Committee debate of 2017, the following statement was made in relation to the emphasis of the Ministry of Education for fiscal year 2016/2017<sup>21</sup>:

*“It is the intention of this Minister of Education and indeed the intention of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago to ensure that within our school system quality education is delivered. If we are to achieve this objective we have to ensure that we have quality physical infrastructure, our teachers must be well trained, our students must be well disciplined and there must be a high level of parental involvement.*

*Towards this end, we have embarked on what we refer to as a School Based Management Model that will involve all major stakeholders in the school system, ably supported by our school supervisors and our curriculum officers and members of the Student Support Unit. These persons, these officers will be visiting the schools on a regular basis where they will be having discussions with our principals, our vice-principals, our heads of departments, our deans and our teachers, all in an effort to ensure that our objective is met.*

*In our school system today we have a number of challenges and I am sure as we discuss the details of our recurrent expenditure, some of these challenges will be brought to the fore, but I want to assure Members of this House and indeed members of the national community, that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and the Ministry of Education will do everything to ensure that our children are not short changed. In other words, we are going to stick steadfastly to our task of providing a high level of quality education to all our students.”*

*-Minister of Education*

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<sup>21</sup> Standing Finance Committee Hansard of Ministry of Education 18 Oct 16, Accessed September 7, 2017

# Where the Ministry spends its money

## 2017-2018 Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure

The budget allocation for the Ministry of Education is comprised of:

- The Draft Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure in the sum of **\$5,151,772,967**;
- The Draft Estimates of Development Programme in the sum of **\$842,887,000**
  - Consolidated Fund in the sum of **\$321,205,000**; and
  - Infrastructure Development Fund<sup>22</sup> in the sum of **\$521,682,000**.

The Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure include:

- 01 Personnel Expenditure; - **\$2,580,452,700**;
- 02 Goods and Services;- **\$589,717,850**;
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases; **\$61,767,000**;
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies; **\$1,735,376,417**; and
- 06 Current Transfers to Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies **\$184,459,000**.

The Ministry of Education's:

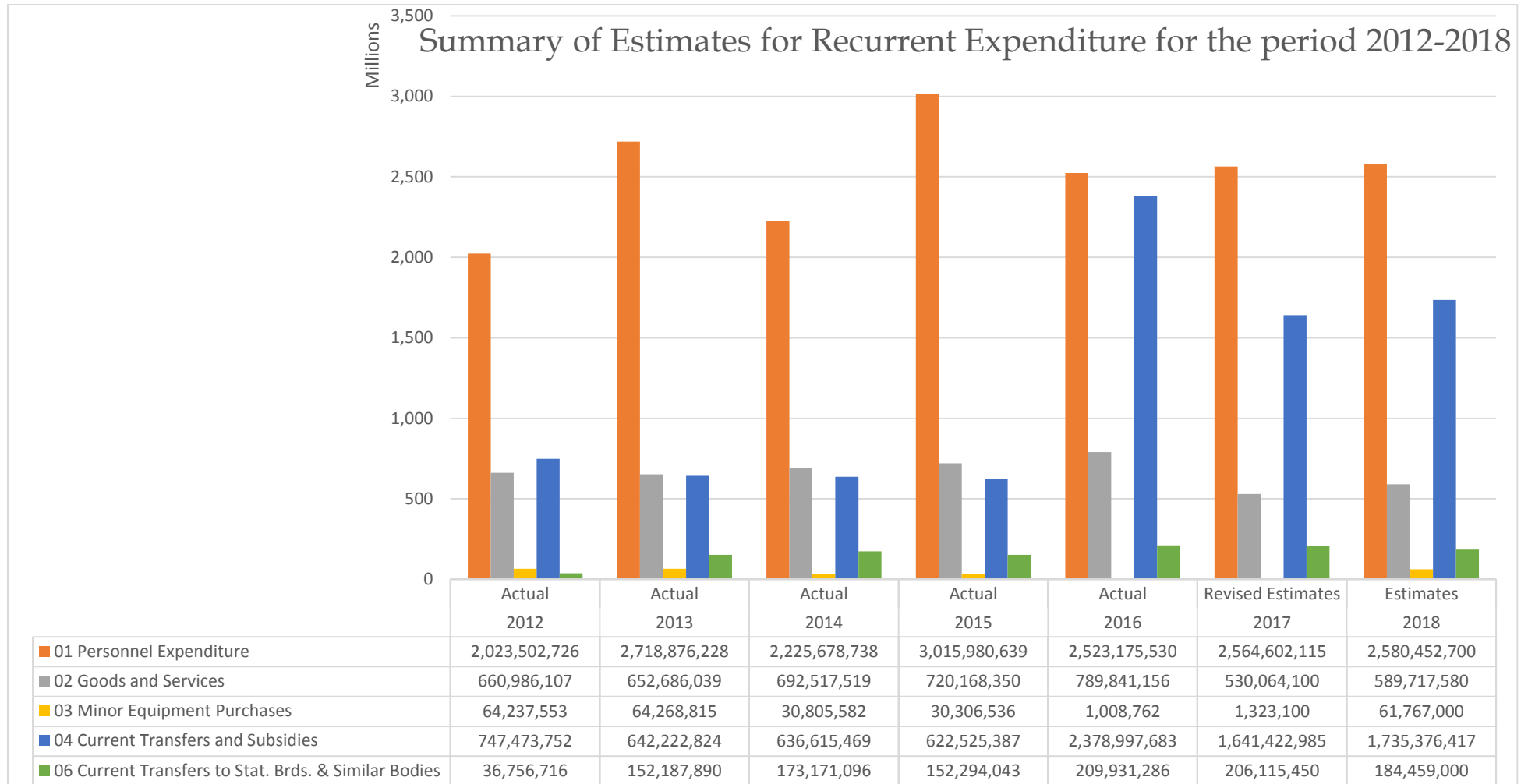
- Recurrent Expenditure as a percentage of the total Recurrent Expenditure budget is **9.81%**;
- Consolidated Fund as a percentage of the total Consolidated Fund is **13.12%**; and
- Infrastructure Development Fund as a percentage of the total Infrastructure Development Fund is **19.5%**.

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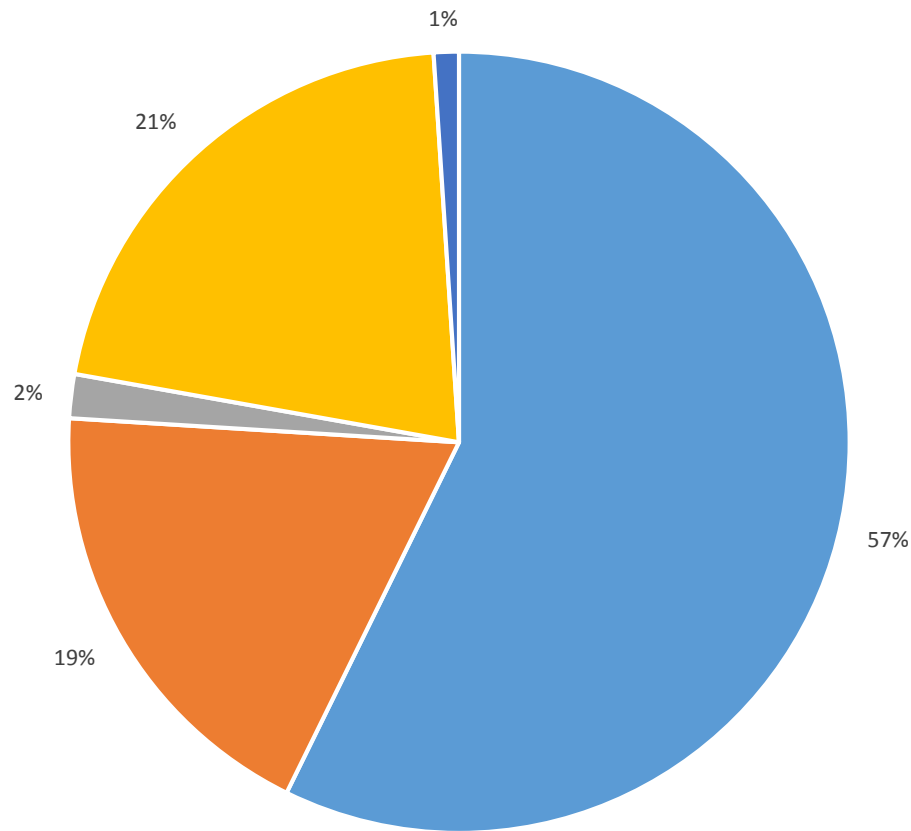
<sup>22</sup> Head 18 –Ministry of Finance, Sub-Head 04 – Current Transfers and Subsidies, Sub-Item 11- Infrastructure Development Fund (IDF) (Infrastructure Development Fund allocation is part of the Ministry of Finance allocation for the financial year. *Therefore, the total recurrent expenditure for the Ministry of Education does not include IDF funding.*

# Summary of Estimates for Recurrent Expenditure for the period 2012-2018

The Graph below illustrates the budget allocation for the Ministry of Education for the financial year 2017/2018.

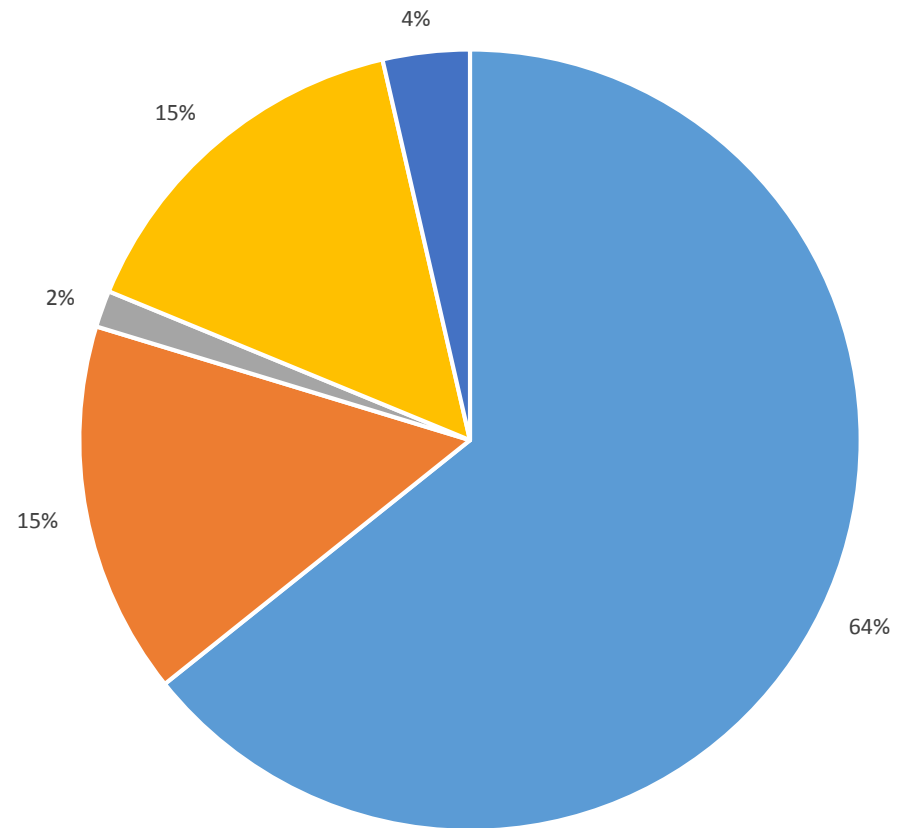


### 2012 Actual



- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Brds. & Similar Bodies

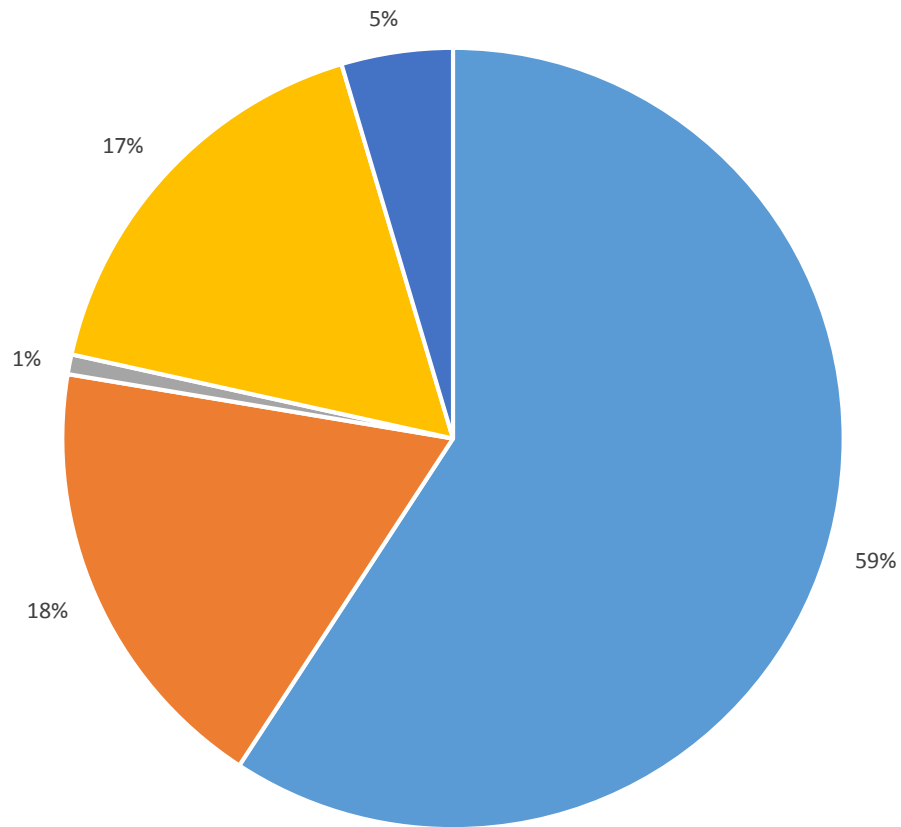
### 2013 Actual



- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Brds. & Similar Bodies

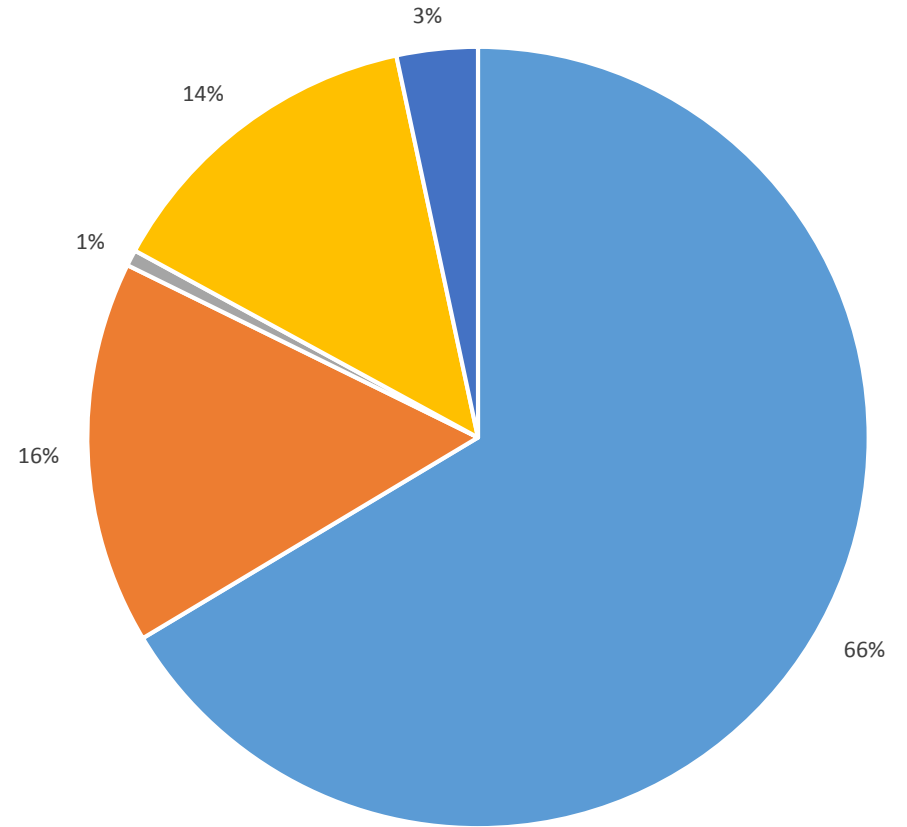


## 2014 Actual



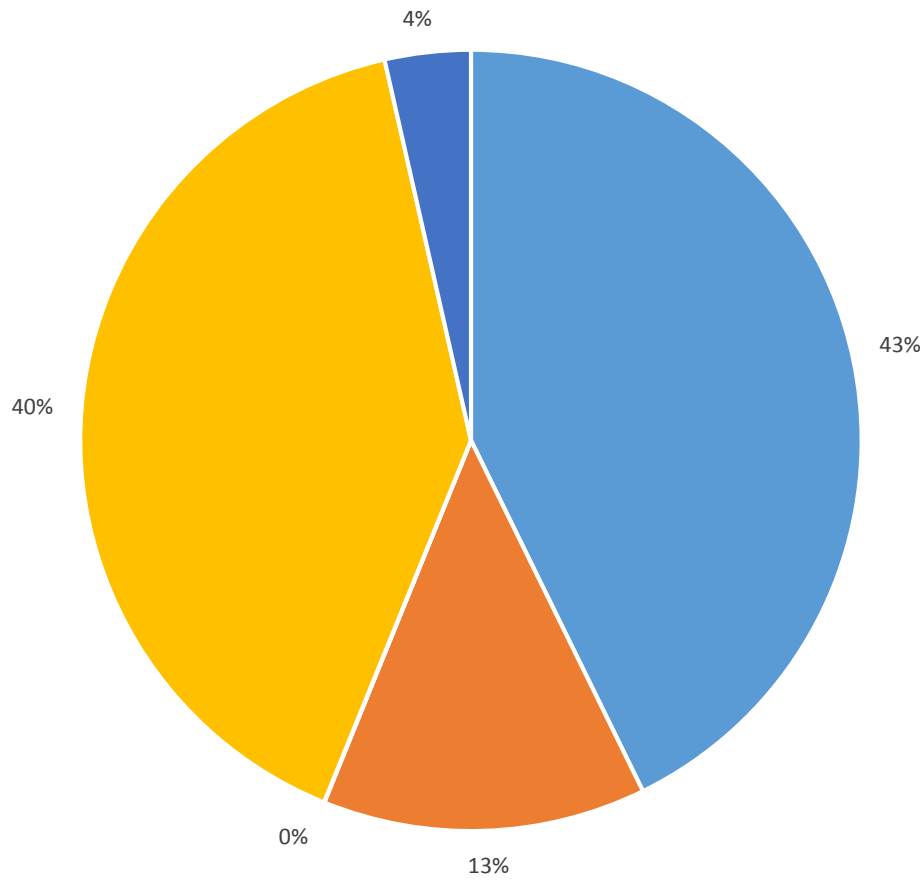
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Brds. & Similar Bodies

## 2015 Actual



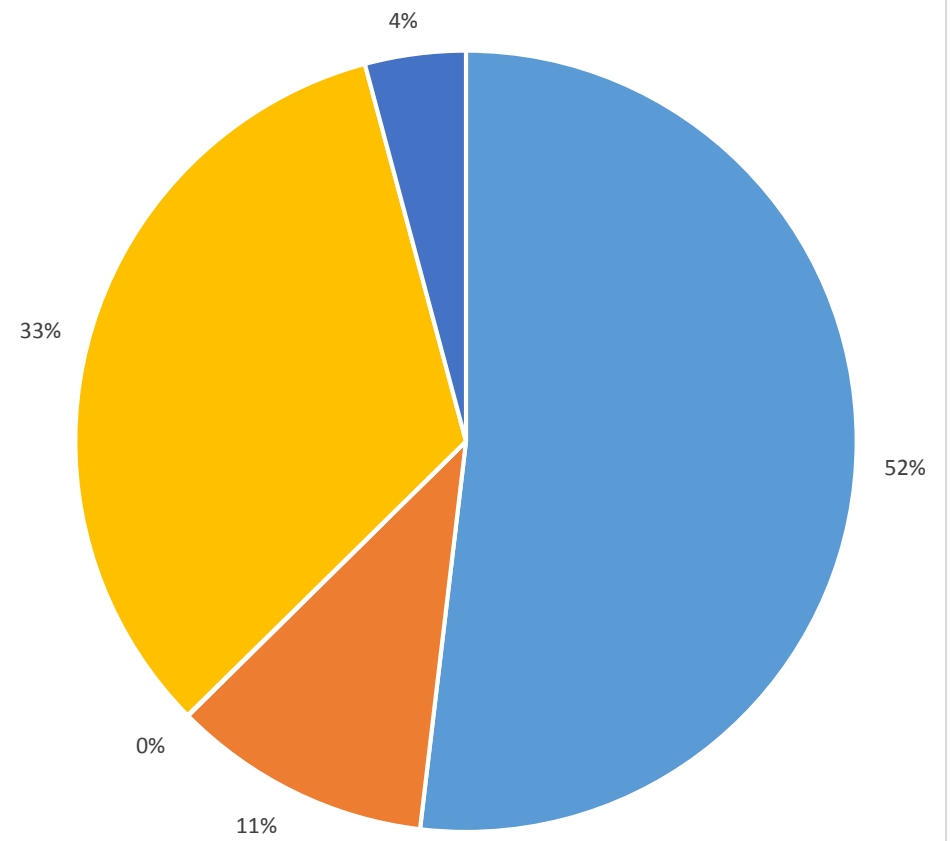
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Brds. & Similar Bodies

## 2016 Actual



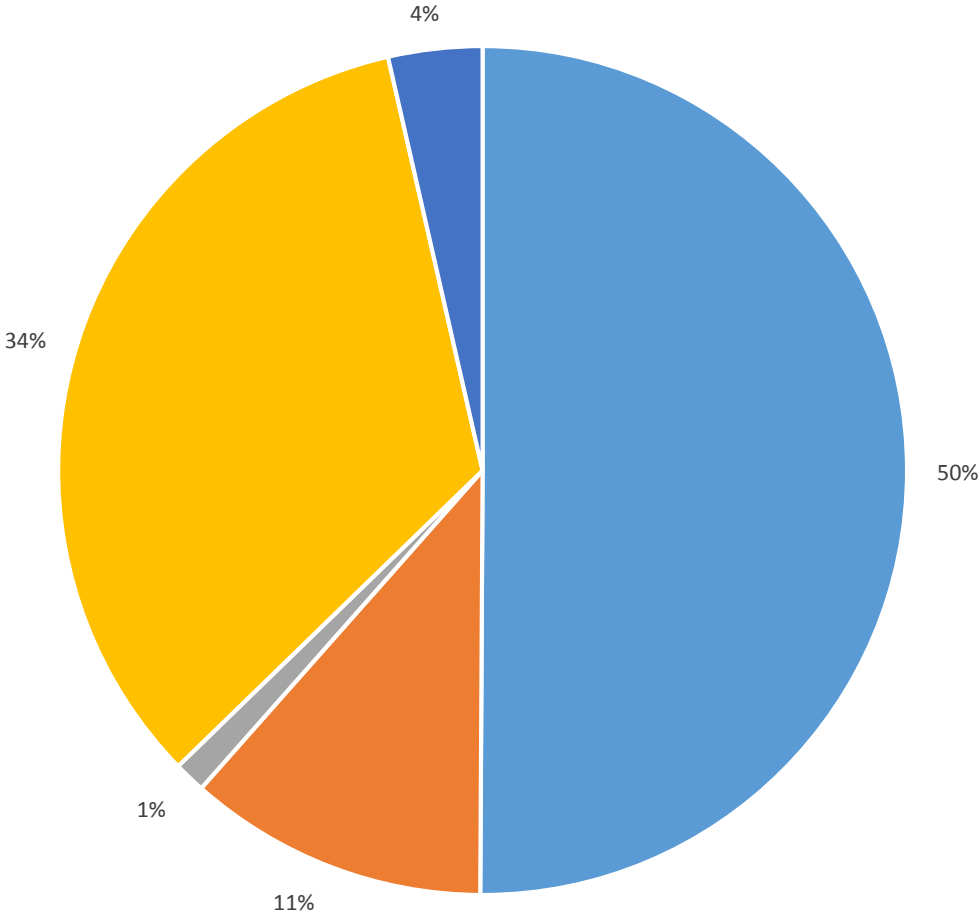
- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Brds. & Similar Bodies

## 2017 Revised Estimates



- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Brds. & Similar Bodies

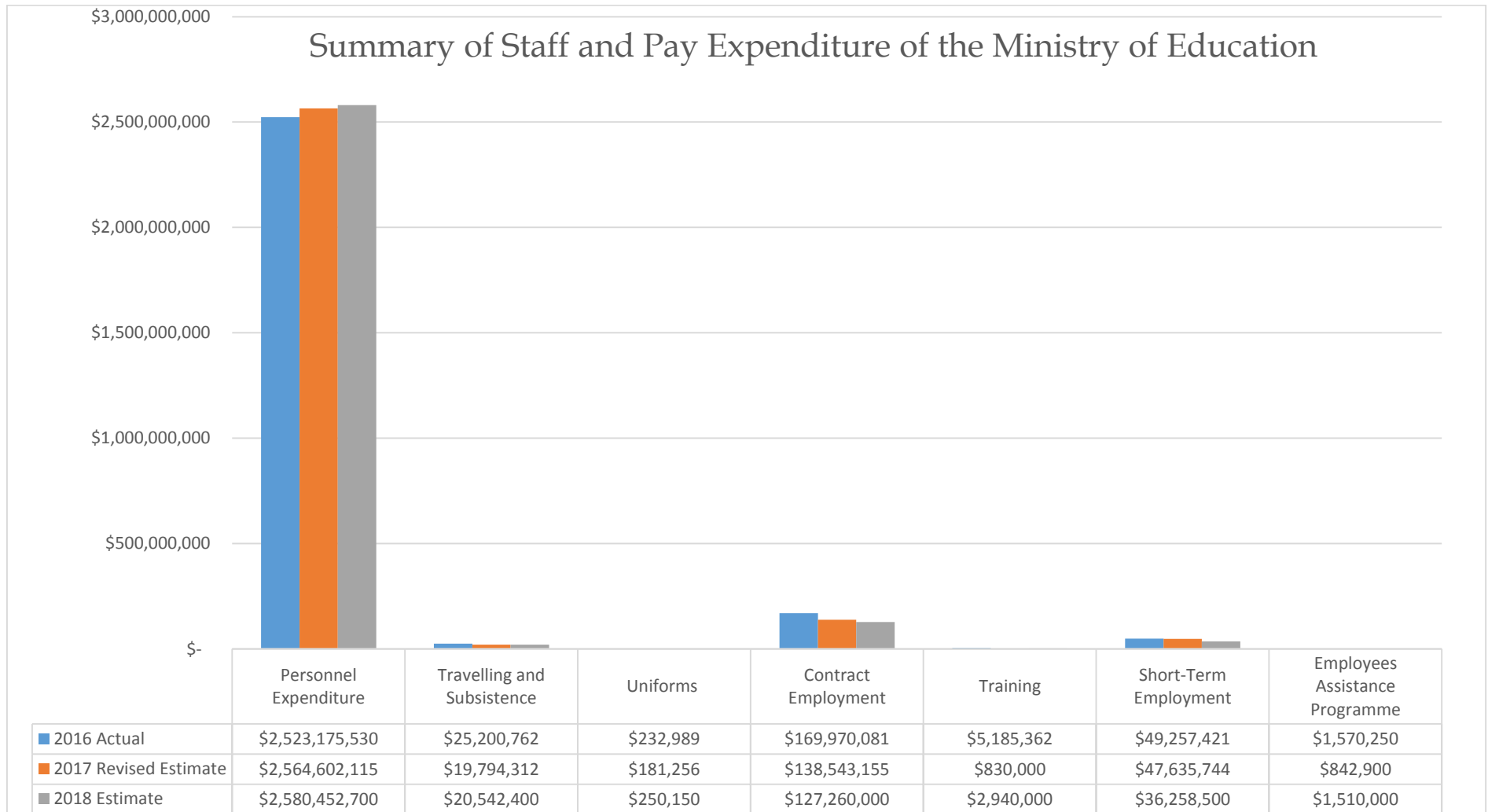
# 2018 Estimates



- 01 Personnel Expenditure
- 02 Goods and Services
- 03 Minor Equipment Purchases
- 04 Current Transfers and Subsidies
- 06 Current Transfers to Stat. Brds. & Similar Bodies

## Staff and Pay<sup>23</sup>

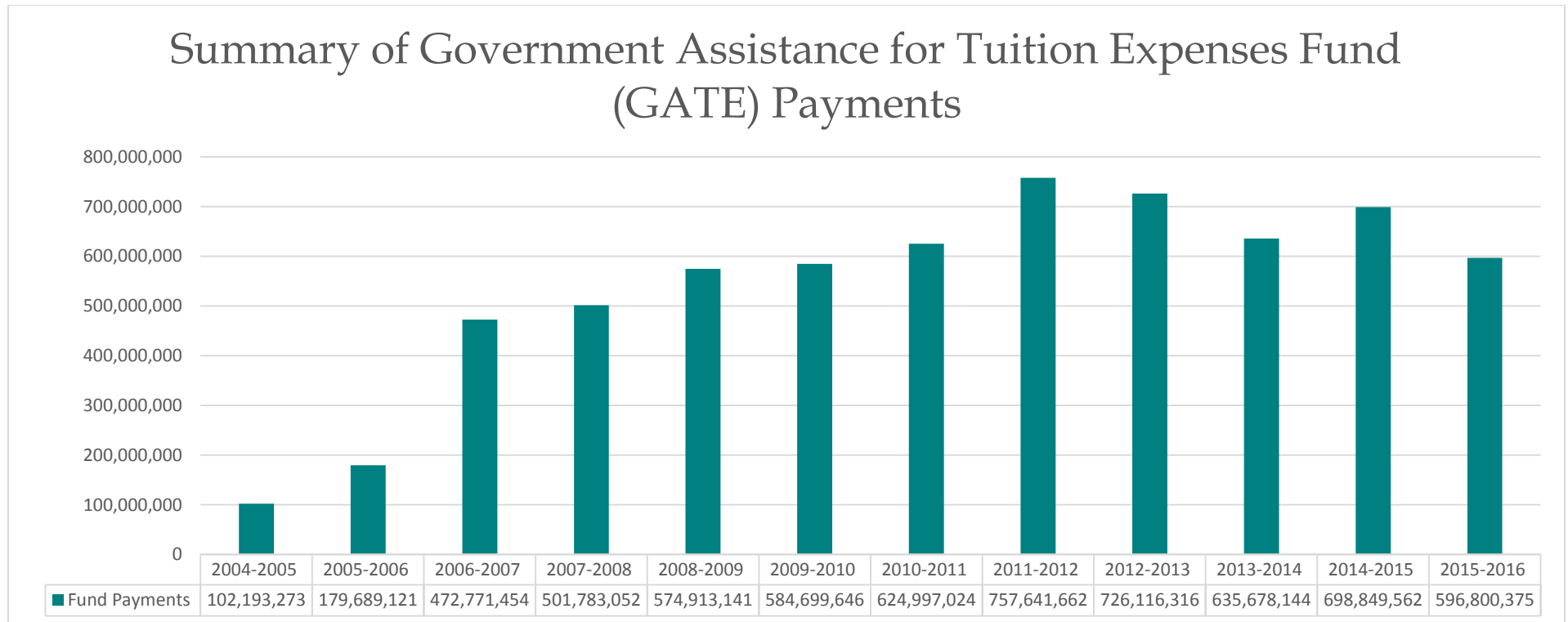
The allocation of staff expenditure for the year 2018 was **\$2,769,213,750**, which is an increase of approximately **3.15%** from the last fiscal year 2017. The diagram below provides a breakdown of all staff related expenditure for 2016-2018.



<sup>23</sup> Draft Estimates for Details of Estimates of Recurrent Expenditure for the Financial Year 2018 <http://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Recurrent-Expenditure-2018.pdf>

## Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses Fund (GATE)

Information supplied by the Ministry of Education (Tertiary Education and Skills Training) to the Auditor General's Department when preparing the Auditor General's 2016 Report shows total spending on the GATE programme as at 2015/2016 to be \$6.46 billion, as follows:<sup>24</sup>



<sup>24</sup> Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year ended September 30, 2016, - Pg. 67 [http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.tt/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%27s%20Report%20on%20the%20Public%20Accounts%202016\\_0.pdf](http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.tt/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%27s%20Report%20on%20the%20Public%20Accounts%202016_0.pdf)

## The Ministry's total allocation as a percentage of the National Budget for the period 2012 to 2018.

Year <sup>25</sup>	Total Allocation <sup>26</sup>	National Budget <sup>27</sup>	Percentage of National Budget
2012	\$ 3,563,541,451.00	\$ 55,718,271,573.00	6%
2013	\$ 4,290,997,523.00	\$ 59,174,226,196.00	7%
2014	\$ 3,864,935,183.00	\$ 65,020,886,424.00	6%
2015	\$ 4,673,530,216.00	\$ 61,966,922,675.00	8%
2016	\$ 6,260,934,016.00	\$ 56,573,913,053.00	11%
2017	\$ 5,214,889,550.00	\$ 55,598,436,912.00	9%
2018	\$ 5,472,977,697.00	\$ 54,955,041,591.00	10%

- Total allocation for the Ministry as a percentage of the National Budget illustrates an increase in the allocation to the Ministry of Education by 1% between the period 2016/2017 and 2017/2018

<sup>25</sup> For the Fiscal Years 2012-2016, actual figures were used to calculate the total allocation. However, estimates were used to calculate the total allocation for the Fiscal Years 2017 and 2018.

<sup>26</sup> Total Allocation for the Ministry of Education = Recurrent Expenditure + Consolidated Fund

<sup>27</sup> The National Budget = Total Recurrent Expenditure + Total Consolidated Fund

## Analysis and Summary of Expenditure

Recurrent Expenditure refers to the payments for expenses which are incurred during the day-to-day operations of the Ministry including Personnel Expenditure, Goods and Services, Minor Equipment Purchases, Current Transfers and Subsidies and Current Transfers to Statutory Boards and Similar Bodies.

- Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2017/2018 was estimated at **\$5,151,772,967**. This represents **9.81%** of the total Estimated Recurrent Expenditure for the Financial year 2017/2018.
- Recurrent Expenditure for Fiscal Year 2016/2017 was **\$4,943,527,750 (Revised)**. Comparing this figure with the allocation in Fiscal Year 2017/2018, there is an increase of **\$208,245,217** or **4.21%**.
- The largest portion of the allocation has consistently gone to Sub-Head 01 Personnel Expenditure. This figure has been fluctuating over the period 2012 – 2018 from **57%** in fiscal year 2012, increasing to **66%** in fiscal year 2015 and then decreasing to **43%** in 2016.
- In 2018 the allocation, **Personnel Expenditure** will account for **50%** of the Ministry's total recurrent allocation.
- **Minor Equipment Purchases** received the lowest portion of the Ministry's allocations for the period 2012 to 2018.
- **Current transfers and subsidies** represented approximately **34%** of the total recurrent allocation when compared to the last fiscal year 2017, there was an increase of **1%**.
- **Current transfers to State Boards and Similar Bodies** represented approximately **4%** of the allocation.

- The actual/estimated expenditure for the five (5) Sub-Heads has been fluctuating over the seven (7) year period, from a low of **\$3,532,956,854.00** in 2012 to a high of **\$5,902,954,417.00** in 2016. It should be noted that in 2015, the Ministry of Tertiary Education and Skills Training merged with the Ministry of Education



# Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2012-2018

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 Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP), which represents the capital expenditure component of the National Budget, is the instrument used by Government to effect its vision and policies. It is a budgeting and strategic planning tool made up of projects and programmes, designed to realise the goals set out in the Government's overarching policy.

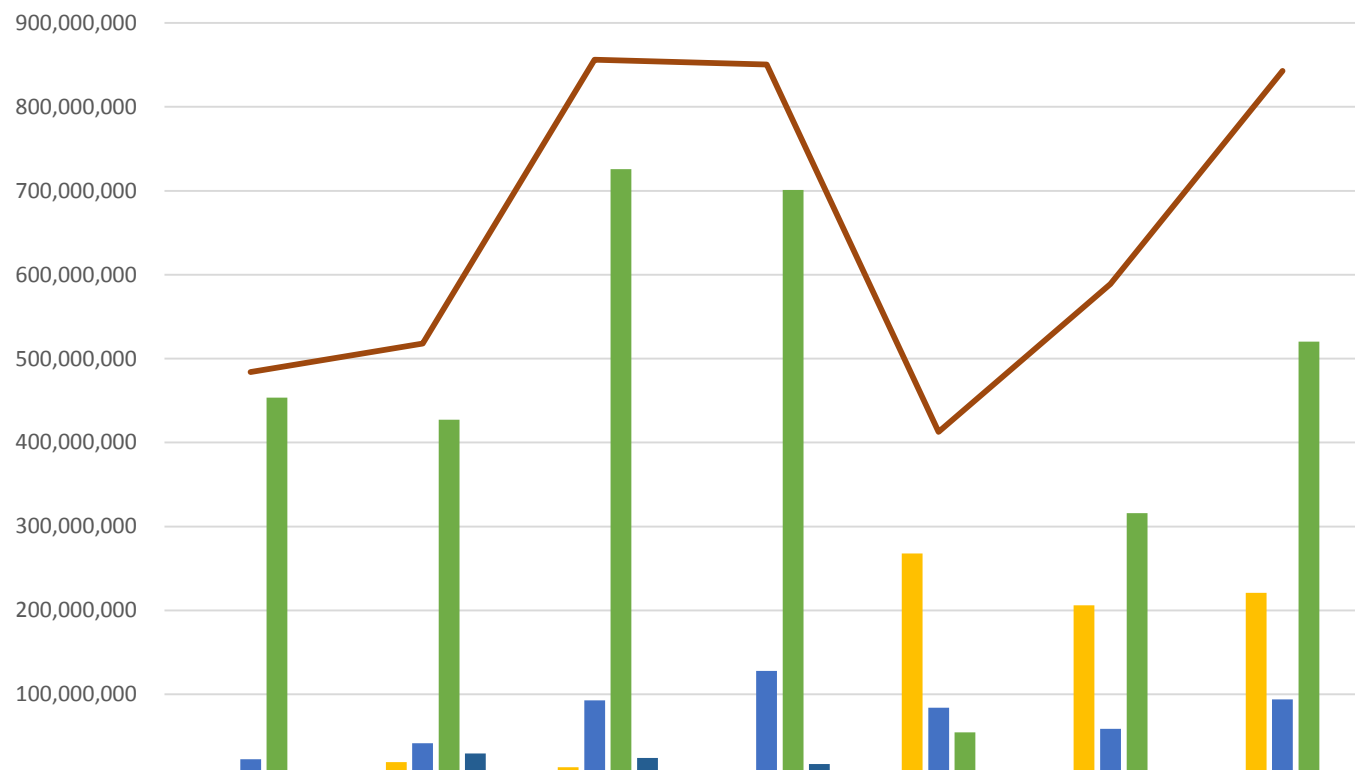
The PSIP budget document provides a detailed description of the programmes and projects and includes a review of the implementation of projects and programmes in the previous financial year and highlights the major projects and programmes to be implemented in the upcoming financial year.

- The Public Sector Investment Programme is intended to achieve:
  - the country's social and economic development goals; and
  - enhance the quality of life of all citizens.

The estimates for the development programme are presented in two parts as follows:

- Funds appropriated by Parliament and disbursed directly from the Consolidated Fund; and
- Funds disbursed from the Infrastructure Development Fund.

## Summary of Development Programme Expenditure for the period 2012-2018



	2012 Actual	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2017 Revised Estimates	2018 Estimates
003 Economic Infrastructure - Consolidated Fund	-	-	-	-	5,993,084	6,064,200	6,000,000
004 Social Infrastructure - Consolidated Fund	7,671,696	19,116,703	13,185,500	4,180,000	267,825,263	206,175,000	221,109,000
005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Consolidated Fund	22,912,901	41,639,024	92,961,279	128,075,261	84,161,252	59,122,600	94,096,000
004 Social Infrastructure - Infrastructure Development Fund	453,476,088	427,394,280	725,570,107	701,149,329	54,659,629	315,809,456	520,082,000
005 Multi-Sectoral and Other Services - Infrastructure Development Fund	149,098	29,708,550	24,365,458	17,044,524	-	1,600,000	1,600,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>484,209,783</b>	<b>517,858,557</b>	<b>856,082,344</b>	<b>850,449,114</b>	<b>412,639,228</b>	<b>588,771,256</b>	<b>842,887,000</b>

## Noteworthy Development Programme Estimates in 2017-2018

The table below lists the projects that have been noted due to uncharacteristic variances in estimates for funding: <sup>28</sup>

Development Programme 2018	Project -Item	2017 Estimate	2017 Revised Estimate	2018 Estimate
004-04D-002	Sangre Grande MIC/HYPE Centre	3,000,000	300,000	-
004-04G-003	Scholarship's/Full Pay Study Leave for Teachers	6,000,000	5,690,000	-
004-04J-025	Establishment of the Aviation Institute - UTT Camden Campus - Phase 1	10,000,000	10,000,000	-
004-04J-027	Establishment of a National Science Centre	12,000,000	3,500,000	1,000,000
004-04J-032	Establishment of a Training Facility - Chaguanas	10,000,000	-	5,000,000
004-04J-033	Acquisition of Capital Equipment for Metal Industries Company Limited (legacy)	500,000	200,000	1,700,000
005-06A-031	Seamless Education System Project	5,500,000	1,600,000	13,000,000
005-06F-016	Relocation of Ministry of Education - Head Office	4,000,000	4,000,000	10,000,000
005-06F-023	Expansion of the School of Dentistry at the Medical Sciences Complex	5,000,000	12,200,000	1,500,000
005-06F-024	Upgrade of the Campus Sewer Collection System and Sewer Treatment plant	2,000,000	-	11,605,000

<sup>28</sup> Draft Estimates of Development Programme for the Financial Year 2018, <http://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Development-Programme-2018.pdf>

## Status of New Projects from the Financial Year 2016-2017

For the fiscal year 2016-2017, the following new projects were scheduled for implementation under the Ministry of Education, and as such require further inquiry on the progress of completion<sup>29</sup>:

<b>Development Programme 2018</b>	<b>Project -Item</b>	<b>2017 Estimate</b>	<b>2017 Revised Estimate</b>	<b>2018 Estimate</b>
005-06A-037	School Improvement Project – Laventille Community	31,000,000	10,322,500	30,000,000
005-06A-038	Acquisition of Property in Tobago to House ACTT Offices	500,000	-	-
005-06A-039	Establishment of a Knowledge Centre in Laventille	8,000,000	-	-
005-06F-027	Building of the International Fine Cocoa Innovation Centre	4,500,000	-	6,800,000
004-04C-395 IDF	Construction and Refurbishment of Holy Cross College	10,000,000	5,000,000	20,000,000

<sup>29</sup> Draft Estimates of Development Programme for the Financial Year 2018, <http://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Development-Programme-2018.pdf>

## New Projects for the Financial Year 2017-2018

The following new projects that received funding in the 2017/2018 financial year<sup>30</sup>:

<b>Development Programme 2018</b>	<b>Project -Item</b>	<b>2018 Estimate</b>
004-04J-037	St. Bede Technology Centre – Establishment of Woodworking Workshop	600,000
004-04J-039	COSTAATT El Dorado Academy of Nursing and Allied Health	5,000,000
004-04J-041	COSTAATT Technology Upgrade	2,000,000
004-04J-043	Enhancing of Agriculture through Technology - NIHERST	629,000

<sup>30</sup> Draft Estimates of Development Programme for the Financial Year 2018, <http://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Development-Programme-2018.pdf>

## Major Programmes and Development for the Period 2016 to 2018

The following table shows a list of the significant expenditure items, based on the proportion of the budgetary allocation assigned.<sup>31</sup>

Development Programme 2018	PROJECTS	2016 Actual	2017 Revised Estimate	2018 Estimate
004-04G-004	National/ Additional Scholarships based on Advanced Level Examinations	118,282,674	124,695,000	140,000,000
004-04G-009	Post Graduate Scholarship	16,988,305	13,000,000	10,000,000
004-04J-008	Establishment of the University of Trinidad and Tobago	15,500,000	11,420,000	15,000,000
004-04J-016	Establishment of a COSTAATT Campus in Chaguanas	46,653,000	9,050,000	-
005-06A-037	School Improvement Project – Laventille Community	-	10,322,500	30,000,000
005-06-F019	Development Works at the University of the West Indies	28,173,751	17,000,000	9,000,000
004-04-A001 IDF	Early Childhood Care and Education	7,654,706	38,000,000	35,000,000
004-04-B120 IDF	Improvements/Refurbishment/Extensions to Primary Schools	12,531,225	44,956,442	30,000,000
004-04-C322 IDF	Procurement of Furniture and Equipment	415,108	-	15,000,000
004-04-C331 IDF	Improvements/Refurbishment/Extensions to Secondary Schools	3,244,234	23,178,988	20,000,000
004-04-C333 IDF	Replacement /Construction of Blocks Within Secondary Schools	2,640,316	10,000,000	37,086,000
004-04-C394 IDF	Secondary School Construction and Other Infrastructure Works	203,124	40,000,000	75,000,000
004-04-J041 IDF	UTT Main Campus Tamana E-Teck Park Wallerfield	6,111,715	58,000,000	120,265,000

<sup>31</sup> Draft Estimates of Development Programme for the Financial Year 2018, <http://www.finance.gov.tt/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/Numbered-Draft-Estimates-Development-Programme-2018.pdf>

# Auditor General Report Findings for the Fiscal year 2016

Ref: Auditor General's Report<sup>32</sup>

## **26 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION Pg. 36**

### *Overpayments*

Overpayments The Appropriation Account reported that 637 cases of overpayments totalling \$6,477,125.15 were discovered for the financial period under review. This figure was overstated due to the inclusion of previous year's overpayments.

## **ED1 - PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF EDUCATION Pg. 52**

Monthly Statements of Revenue collected on behalf of the Ministry from eight District Revenue Offices for the months of August and September 2016 totalling \$384,149.85 were not presented.

## **26 - MINISTRY OF EDUCATION Pg. 64**

### *Expenditure Statement*

The Financial Statement submitted by the Administering Officer did not include Notes nor a report on the activities of the Fund as required by guidelines from the Comptroller of Accounts.

### *Government Assistance Tuition Expenses (GATE)*

The surplus figure of \$52,243,507.29 stated in Part A of the Expenditure Statement, did not agree with the audited balance of \$53,115,711.73. The surplus balance in the Expenditure Statement was understated by \$872,204.44.

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<sup>32</sup> Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the Financial Year ended September 30, 2016, - [http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.tt/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%27s%20Report%20on%20the%20Public%20Accounts%202016\\_0.pdf](http://www.auditorgeneral.gov.tt/sites/default/files/Auditor%20General%27s%20Report%20on%20the%20Public%20Accounts%202016_0.pdf)

## GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE FOR TUITION EXPENSES (GATE) FUND – \$95,059,749.71 Pg. 67

The Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses (GATE) Fund was established under section 43 (2) of the Exchequer and Audit Act, Chapter 69:01. Legal Notice No. 329 dated 9th December, 2004 refers.

The balance in the Fund of \$95,059,749.71 at 30th September, 2016 increased by \$67,889,949.33 or 250% from the prior year balance of \$27,169,800.38 due mainly to a reduction in payments by the Ministry of Education (Tertiary Education and Skills Training) which administers the Fund (TS 56 and TS 57 refer).

The Financial Statement submitted by the Administering Officer did not include Notes or a report on the activities of the Fund as required by Comptroller of Accounts Circular No. 11 dated August 4, 2016.

Information supplied by the Ministry of Education (Tertiary Education and Skills Training) shows total spending on the GATE programme to date to be \$6.46 billion, as follows:

<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Fund Payments \$</b>
2004-2005	102,193,273
2005-2006	179,689,121
2006-2007	472,771,454
2007-2008	501,783,052
2008-2009	574,913,141
2009-2010	584,699,646
2010-2011	624,997,024
2011-2012	757,641,662
2012-2013	726,116,316
2013-2014	635,678,144
2014-2015	698,849,562
2015-2016	596,800,375
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,456,132,770</b>



## Committee Inquires Related to the Ministry of Education

Inquiry	Report Status	Ministerial Response	Key Recommendations <sup>33</sup>
<p>1. <i>The Seventh Report of the Public Accounts Committee for the Second Session, Eleventh Parliament on the Examination of the Report of the Auditor General on the Public Accounts of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago for the financial years 2014 and 2015 with specific reference to the Ministry of Education</i></p>	<p>Report Presented: H.O.R - 19.05.2017 Senate - 23.05.2017</p>	<p>Presented: 08.09.2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Internal Audit Unit should be strengthened to ensure not just efficiency and effectiveness but compliance of other units in the Ministry;</li> <li>• The MOE should pursue the implementation of an automated document management system that is incorporated with an integrated management information system. This will give managers a proper system of data storage whilst facilitating the monitoring of the organization as a whole;</li> <li>• The Public Service Commission should make the outfitting of the MOE with proper staffing a priority because the MOE's function is a critical component in the development of the minds of this country's future leaders;</li> <li>• The Personnel Department should draft more attractive compensation packages for the vacant permanent positions in the MOE so that the Public Service Commission will find it easier to fill the vacancies. This will serve to boost the staff compliment and increase the productivity of the MOE;</li> </ul>

<sup>33</sup> Key Recommendations relate to recommendations that may have a financial impact on the Ministry

<p>2. <i>The First Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration on an inquiry into the Current Level of Violence among students in schools with particular focus on Physical and Cyber Bullying</i></p>	<p>Report Presented: H.O.R - 07.12.2016 Senate -19.12.2016</p>	<p>Presented: H.O.R - 12.04.2017 Senate - 04.04.2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That at least one Learning Enhancement Centres (LEC) be established in each Education district</li> <li>• A comprehensive training regime for Principals and Deans at the Primary and Secondary levels be implemented. This training regime should be informed by a needs assessment of the skills gaps and developmental needs of those involved in managing schools.</li> <li>• The urgent development of a properly structured programme for directing persons with special learning needs out of the mainstream classroom into specially customizing learning environments.</li> <li>• The Ministry of Education hold discussions with the NPTA and a sample of schools with a view to developing new and innovate strategies that would encourage and facilitate greater parental interaction with the school's administration through the use of ICT. As a start, consideration should be given to facilitating live online viewing of meetings for the benefit of parents who cannot be physically present</li> <li>• The MoE undertake the necessary recruitment procedures with a view to filling existing vacancies in the positions of Guidance Officer and Social Worker. In future, the selection</li> </ul>
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			process for these positions should include psychometric testing and or a suitable methodology for assessing whether the candidate's has a suitable personality.
3. <i>The First Report of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee, First Session of the Eleventh Parliament on Examination into the Current Expenditure of Ministries and Departments under three Sub-Heads: Current Transfers and Subsidies, Development Programme - Consolidated Fund and Infrastructure Development Fund</i>	Report Presented: H.O.R - 09.11.2016 Senate -15.11.2016	Presented: H.O.R - 18.01.2017 Senate -17.01.2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensures that the Internal Audit Unit is sufficiently staffed with technical officers and receives the necessary training to build capacity</li> </ul>

## Similar Ministries in Other Jurisdictions

- Ministry of Human Resource Development, INDIA: [http://mhrd.gov.in/higher\\_education](http://mhrd.gov.in/higher_education)
- Department of Education, UK: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-education>[tps://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-culture-media-sport](https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-culture-media-sport)
- Department of Education and Training, AUS: <https://www.education.gov.au/>
- Ministry of Education, CAN: [http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/relsites/oth\\_prov.html](http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/relsites/oth_prov.html)