



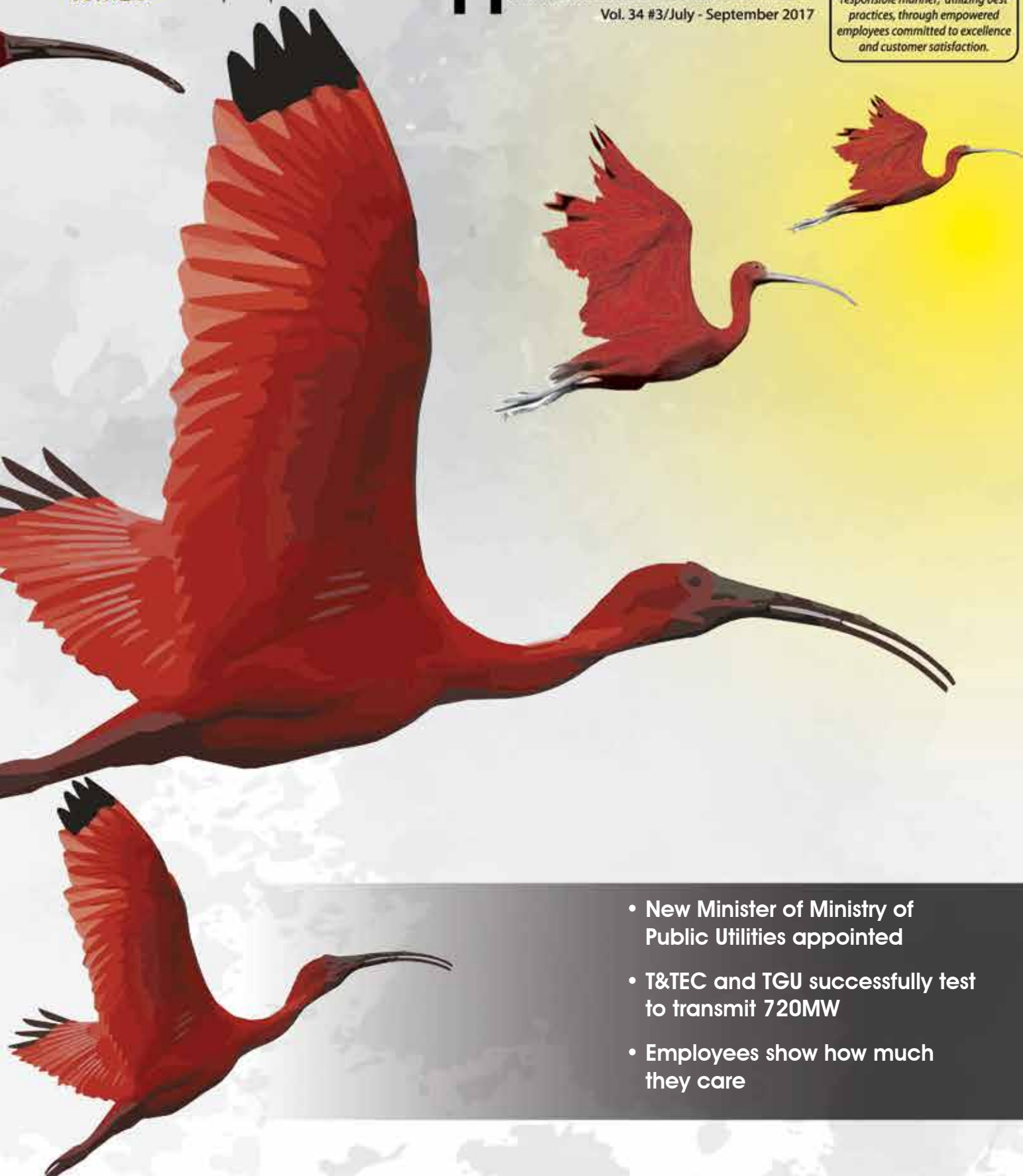
WATTS HAPPENING

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

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VISION - Leadership in Energy
Delivery, Excellence in
Customer Service...
enhancing the quality of life
for all.

MISSION - To provide a safe,
reliable, high quality electricity
supply, in an environmentally
responsible manner, utilizing best
practices, through empowered
employees committed to excellence
and customer satisfaction.



- New Minister of Ministry of Public Utilities appointed
- T&TEC and TGU successfully test to transmit 720MW
- Employees show how much they care

Editorial

On a personal note...

Recent months have felt almost apocalyptic with the increasing number of natural and man-made disasters that have taken place worldwide. From epic category five hurricanes, economic upheaval, threats of war, floods, global terrorist activities and heightened criminal activities locally it's impossible not to worry. The public discourse echoes collective concern that all is not right with the world, though opinions vary on the meaning of all this—a sign of “end times” or just another stage in our evolution?

Thankfully, we haven't evolved past the point of caring and the staff of T&TEC showed the size of their hearts after hurricane devastation visited the Leeward Islands in September.

As always, the response to such events was immediate. Even as the Corporate Communications Department

was planning the response effort, employees were coming up with ideas or pledging their support to whatever event was planned. The results of our overall effort are described on page seven but what is particularly commendable was the willingness of staff to give more than once. In the first wave, there was no hesitation from any office to send forward food, clothing and personal care items for those islands struck by Hurricane Irma. Just over a week later, people were just as happy to share the blessings of their recent wind-fall and gave cash to support those hit by Hurricane Maria.

It has been nothing short of overwhelming, the support that has come from the employees (it was a source of joy, tinged with mock pain, every time another delivery arrived in Corporate Communications and we got ready to sort) and you deserve much, much, thanks for stepping up, even as the

Commission faces its own financial challenges. Kudos!

But even as we give, and thank God that this country has been missed by major natural disaster in recent times, there is a cautionary tale echoing in the wind. At the core of all the disasters, one message that is clear is the need for planning—“when your neighbour house on fire wet yours”, the old people would say.

But this new dispensation of natural and human disasters requires new thinking: How do you respond if caught up in a terror attack? How to build a house to withstand higher category hurricanes or increased floods? What financial protection do you have to rebuild your life after a disaster? How do you protect your family and property from criminals? It is clearly not life as usual and everybody needs a personal preparedness plan. Start writing yours today.

Annabelle Brasnell

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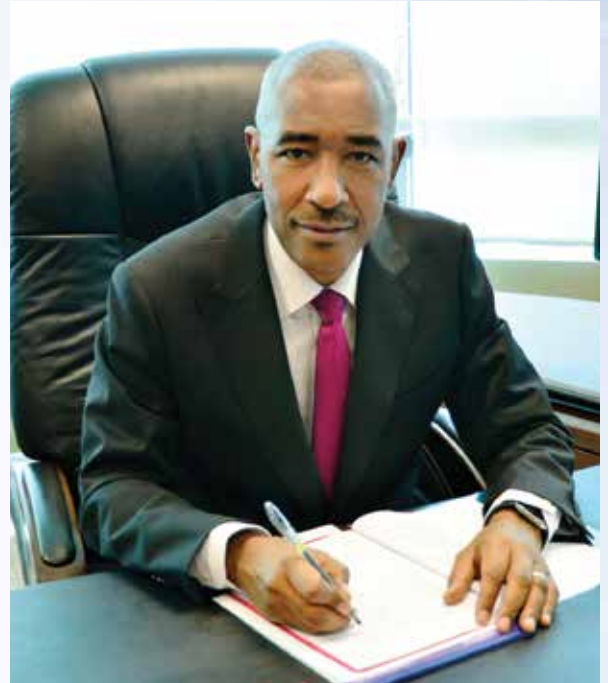
T&TEC welcomes its new line Minister

Senator the Honourable Robert Le Hunte assumed the portfolio of Minister of Public Utilities on August 31, 2017.

According to a statement from the Ministry of Public Utilities, prior to his appointment as Minister, Senator Le Hunte had been a career banker for over 30 years, the majority of which was spent at the Managerial and Executive levels. His exemplary career at Republic Bank culminated in his appointment to the Executive Director level in 2016, where he was charged with the responsibility of executing the bank's African Continent expansion strategy, a role he held just prior to opting for early retirement.

Senator Le Hunte holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Manchester, and a Master of Science Degree in Accounting from the University of the West Indies, as well as a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of Western Ontario, Canada. He has also participated in the Advanced Management Programme at Harvard University.

Senator Le Hunte has also made time for national interests, by serving on a number of Boards, including the National Flour Mills, National Feed Mills, the Environmental Management Authority and National Initiative for Service Excellence, Barbados. He also served



*Senator the Honourable Robert Le Hunte
Photo courtesy: Ministry of Public Utilities*

as President of both the Caribbean Association of Indigenous Banks, and the Barbados Bankers Association.

Senator Le Hunte has always viewed himself as a servant of the people, and now brings this servant-leadership mind-set to bear on his latest responsibilities as a member of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago and Minister of Public Utilities.

All hands on deck for historic TGU 720MW test

On Friday June 16, the largest power station in the Caribbean, Trinidad Generation Unlimited (TGU), successfully conducted its first Maximum Dependable Net Capacity (MDNC) test, officially declaring T&TEC capable of receiving its full load of 720MW.

The milestone, made possible after the construction of the Gandhi Village Substation and extensive transmission upgrades, was the culmination of years of planning and effort by staff of the System Control and Generation Interface (SC&GI). Although the load was taken up in increments from its average daily load of 545 MW to about 680 MW on June 6, it all came down to one moment of truth.

The official MDNC test – a standard full load capacity test done as per T&TEC’s Power Purchase Agreements – took place on June 16, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It involved starting up the plant and taking it up to the desired output during what is typically the hottest part of the day (when it is most challenging for the turbines). Everyone was on hand to monitor the process. T&TEC’s technical staff were set up in three teams – two at TGU in the switch house and the NGC gas station, and one at ‘ground zero’ in the control room, Mt. Hope.

At TGU, Manager, SC&GI, Allen Clarke, led a team including Senior Control Engineer, Trevor Babwah and Assistant Control Operator, Kenrick Ramsaroop, who

joined with plant staff and officials from the manufacturer, General Electric. Together, they monitored, “not only the output of the plant, but also the efficiency of the natural gas usage” (how much natural gas it took to produce the output), to ensure the best use of the valuable resource.”, said Mr. Clarke.

Simultaneously, in the control room, staff were busy with pre-test preparations, starting up additional generating units at Point Lisas to act as a backup for TGU should the system shut down. All transmission maintenance jobs for that day had been cancelled in advance. These measures ensured that the transmission system was operating at its optimum, should there be any disturbance resulting from

the extremely high first time loads.

Back at TGU, the third team huddled under a shed in the NGC gas station to monitor the gas flow, and feed realtime gas meter readings to the others. Manual reads were necessary as remote monitoring is possible only for the electrical output but not gas readings. At the same time, Mr. Ramsaroop monitored the electrical readings from within the TGU switch house, but they rotated posts halfway through the test to develop everyone's expertise. "It was all hands on deck," Mr. Clarke said of the full complement of control operators - Shift Control Engineer I, Wesley Bullock and Control Operators, Fazal Ali, Wayne Castillo and Rocky

Maraj and Senior Engineer, Shastri Gayadeen. All parties kept in touch via radio to keep an eye on system stability.

Even with all these arrangements in place, one thing was beyond their control – the weather.

"With cool temperatures and rain on the day, in order to pass the 720MW nominal test the plant had to produce beyond capacity, at nearly 760MW. This it comfortably did with the assistance of "duct firing" (a process of firing giant burners to force more steam from the exhaust of the generator to produce more electricity).

Now that the system proved capable of receiving 720MW, customers are not only

assured of a more reliable supply of electricity, T&TEC will also enjoy tremendous cost savings over time.

A key appeal of this combined cycle plant is the heat recovery steam generator (HRSG). The steam produced from generating power by gas turbines is channelled through steam turbines, boosted by duct firing, to produce 270 out of the 720MW, at no fuel cost, making more gas available to NGC for export.

Meanwhile, T&TEC will continue to utilise the daily generation average and will ramp up continuously to 720MW only when the second double circuit transmission line is completed in 2018.



In commemoration of the First Peoples

Over seven thousand years ago a group of people who would shape our national identity through language, food and culture lived on the island we know as Trinidad, then called Iere. These were the First Peoples – the Amerindian Taínos and Kalinagos, better known as the Caribs and Arawaks, influential founders of our land. The name Trinidad came in 1498, after Columbus visited, but Tobago was not connected to Trinidad till 1888.

Some Amerindians established permanent settlements while others were in constant movement throughout the island. Arima was one area known to be Amerindian territory because it became an area of settlement for many people when the Europeans invaded and, for most of the 16th and 17th centuries, it was home to the Nepuyo tribe. European attempts to control this sector of the island proved futile, mainly due to the leadership of the Nepuyo war chief, Hyarima and his active role in the protection and preservation of his peoples' ancestral land, customs and culture. In his honour, Hyarima, the statue, was unveiled on May 25, 1993, and is still located in the heart of Arima on Hollis Avenue.

Many Amerindian place names and words have survived to date, places such as Chaguanas, Mayaro, Couva, Guayaguayare, Arouca, Caura, Arima, Tunapuna, Guaico, Carapichaima, Mucurapo, Paria, and Tacarigua, as well as, the Tamana and Aripo mountains; and the Caroni and Oropouche rivers.

Moreover, Trinbagonians enjoy delightful cuisines of Amerindian origin such as barbecue, cassava, bread, pastelles, chadon beni, coffee and cocoa. Not to mention the melodious sounds of Parang music, a hybrid of Spanish and Amerindian musical styles, that is most popular around Christmas. The Amerindians also developed the bow and arrow and the canoe.

Modern day populations in islands like Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Dominica, Guyana and St Vincent also form part of the Amerindian network, featuring archaeological sites throughout the region. Thousands of Amerindian descendants are still scattered throughout Trinidad and



Statue of Hyarima located at Hollis Avenue, Arima

Tobago, preserving the Amerindian heritage in modern times. The Santa Rosa First Peoples Community has been one of the main advocates for Amerindian recognition, as such, President Anthony Carmona officially declared October 13, 2017 a one-off public holiday in honour of this country's First Peoples.

The commemoration is a call for citizens to not view national identity in its customary dual racial or religious constructs, but rather to also accept the Amerindian ancestry that is rooted in our culture, forming an essential part of our collective Trinbagonian identity.

Employees show how much they care

T&TEC's employees heeded the national call to assist people from islands of the Caribbean ravaged by Hurricane Harvey, Irma and Maria, donating almost \$130,000.00 in cash and items.

The donations were channelled through local charity 'Is There Not A Cause' (ITNAC), and the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM). Last year T&TEC also partnered with ITNAC, donating approximately \$40,000 in cash and items to the Hurricane Matthew relief effort in Haiti.

In a generous show of support, employees contributed twice to the current effort. After Hurricane Irma hit our northern Caribbean neighbours, employees in all operating centres, mobilised and collected baby food, toiletries; non-perishable foods; toiletries; sanitary products; water, clothing or cash deposited directly into ITNAC's bank account set up for that purpose. This was valued at an estimated



Employees of Corporate Communications sort donated clothing

\$29,000.00 (excluding clothing).

About a week later, when Hurricane Maria battered the island of Dominica, employees reacted positively to a proposal to donate \$200 each to support this and islands that had been hit twice. Within one week just under \$100,000 had been collected. On the advice of the ODPM and the Caribbean Disaster Management Agency the funds were to be used to purchase specific food items and building materials.

Annabelle Brasnell, Corporate Communications Manager, who coordinated the effort, relayed a collective "thank you" to employees for their overwhelming response, saying it showed "how much we care." She specially

acknowledged the assistance of volunteers who assisted with the collection efforts Commission-wide. From the Distribution Areas: Orie Taylor - North; Lester Lal - South; Lauren Moore - East; Pat Gomez - Central and Curtis Harry -Tobago. From the operating centres: Usha Ramcharan - Head Office; Karryl Jeffery-Redhead - Mount Hope; Arlene Greaves - King Village; Jada Murray - Transmission and Karen Mc Lean - Public Lighting Department.

Ms. Brasnell expressed satisfaction that T&TEC's employees were able to make a difference in the regional recovery efforts after the devastating hurricanes of 2017.



Members of the elite Rapid Response Unit strike a tactical pose during one of their training sessions.

Ready to protect and secure

The mission of T&TEC's Security Department is to protect the Commission's assets and ensure a safe and secure environment for its staff and customers in a cost effective manner. Formerly a part of the Legal and Secretarial Department reporting to the Corporate Secretary, Security became a department in 2011.

T&TEC's Security Department is one of the largest in-house supplemental police service in the country. Its action plans guide 24/7 operational delivery of the Commission's strategic

objective number five, "To ensure the health, safety, security, environmental, quality and business continuity management systems are developed and integrated in all of T&TEC's business operations."

The 253 precepted officers operate under the Supplemental Police Act and possess similar powers to the national police. Supported by 17 clerical staff, the Security Department is tasked with protecting workers and the Commission's installations and assets from unlawful intrusion,

malicious damage, robbery and pilferage.

The Department's direct links to several security organisations, including the cabinet-appointed Energy Sector Security Initiative and the Private Security Network Commission, formed under the Ministry of National Security, has facilitated a far reaching capacity for intelligence gathering and security coverage. As Acting Chief Security Officer (ACSO) and Head of Department, William Douglas pointed out, these alliances are important as "our

estate is throughout Trinidad and Tobago.”

Although a limited amount of contract security services are used for access control at some locations, officers from the Security Department manage investigations, rapid response, electronic monitoring and static sentries. ACSO Douglas noted that while some of these duties might appear routine to observers, behind the friendly faces are officers highly trained in law enforcement techniques, firearm usage and evidence gathering. The latter is being done daily by the lesser known Investigation Unit.

This unit, in carrying out Objective number five of T&TEC’s strategic plan, provides security support to other Departments in the Commission. Their duties, which are geared towards conducting criminal and civil investigations, include evidence gathering, recording of witness statements and the execution of summons and warrants. ACSO Douglas said that the work of this 16 officers unit is “centred on securing convictions and/or minimising liability.”

The efforts of the investigation unit’s work are in the results. For the period June 2016 to June 2017, they assisted in the prosecution of ten larceny



Two officers investigate a house fire report at Claxton Bay.

cases. For the last three years, working with the Risk Management Department, they have recovered revenue averaging \$1.3 million per year from motor vehicle damages to poles and other infrastructure. The unit’s investigators also conduct investigations on all fires that may be electrical related, to ensure “reasonable claims” to the Commission.

As with other units of the Security Department, Investigators are strategically deployed throughout the Commission for quick response and close monitoring of the illegal construction of overhead lines and illegal connections. This vigilance has resulted in identifying nine incidents of illegal low voltage

line construction and three illegal connections, as well as the recovery of six stolen meters and four stolen poles during the period June 2016 to date. According to the ACSO, the successful prosecution of these illegal activities has proven to be a deterrent to offenders and made inroads in the Commercial Department’s electricity verification exercises, to ascertain current stealing and meter tampering. ACSO Douglas admitted though, that increases in crime and criminal activity nationwide has put a strain on the Department’s resources, both in manpower and in mobility. Demand for protective escorts by the Rapid Response Unit (RRU) is at an all-time high, with the unit responding to 5,529

requests for security escorts over the last 11 months. Of note, since the RRU has been established, there have been no incidents of robbery or injury to field workers who were protected by this unit. The RRU also conducts patrols of the Commission's lands to ensure there are no illegal encroachments.

As the requests for services grow, T&TEC's Security Department will adapt to ensure its performance level remains high. ACSO Douglas advised that a new batch of 20 recruits are expected to alleviate some of the manpower issues and an increase to the Department's

vehicle fleet will also assist in reducing cost and improving efficiency. But as the Officers remain committed and dedicated to duty, they are asking for the assistance of all employees to be the eyes and ears of the Commission and report infractions, such as damages to Commission's infrastructure and larceny and pilfering of its property. This can be done anonymously by calling any of the following numbers:

- 636 8282 (Central)
- 663 5046 (Mt. Hope)
- 652 0877 (South)
- 724 8682 (Head Office)
- 639 2021 (Tobago)

Below: Some of our sharp-looking Tobago Officers as they prepare to start duty.



Refurbished computers help make a difference



Employees of Restore a Sense of I Can give a thumbs up after loading a van with CPUs

T&TEC has ramped up its programme to donate disused computers to schools and non-governmental organisations. Instead of the typical single digit numbers per institution, the Commission has partnered with Restore a Sense of I Can (RSC), to fix the over 300 machines and get them where they are needed.

On February 16, T&TEC began donating unserviceable computers, scanners and printers to RSC, a non-profit organisation, to be refurbished and distributed to schools, IT clubs and the less-fortunate. This eliminated some of the 60,000 to 100,000 machines RSC's Marketing Director, Randall Sinanan, had previously reported to the Guardian, that are dumped

in landfills. By donating and refurbishing the machines, companies could "make a world of difference to someone who cannot afford one," he said.

The RSC programme seeks to partner with students, their parents and the wider community who do not have access to Information and Communication Technology (ICT). IT Clubs in schools throughout the country aid in the refurbishment of computers. They are then assigned to the school or distributed, in collaboration with RSC, to poor communities, homes for children and the elderly. "Participation from national organisations like T&TEC will significantly assist in the

continuity of projects," RSC stated.

T&TEC's contribution to the RSC is two-fold, to benefit society and management of its e-waste.

At the official launch of the RSC programme last year, the group's Technical Director, Raj Ramdass expressed regret that "e-waste is a significant global problem and we [T&T] don't have the policies to properly handle our e-waste." But T&TEC is an exception, as it has procedures in place to properly dispose of e-waste through external companies, which are approved by the Environmental Management Authority (EMA).

T&TEC trains Fire Officers in emergency response

An electrical accident often transfers a victim from a state of control and voluntary action, to a state of trauma and incapacitation. Preventing such occurrences when Fire Officers respond to emergencies where live electricity is present, was the focus of discussions and presentations at the Commission's first 'National Emergency and Safety Information Exchange'.

T&TEC's then Acting General Manager, Courtenay Mark, along with managers and Health, Safety and the Environment officials, sought to educate Fire Officers from the Trinidad and Tobago Fire Service (TTFS) at the information exchange on July 10. The event was held at the Stanley P. Ottley Building, Mt Hope. The need for this type of training was brought into sharp focus in 2016, when a ladder being used by Fire Officers in a flood rescue on the Priority Bus Route in Barataria came into contact with an overhead line, leaving five officers hospitalised.

Approximately 20 Trainers/Instructors from the TTFS



The Fire Officers share a light hearted moment during the safety talks.

participated in the training session. T&TEC Area Manager - East, Alvin Ramsaran; HSE Manager, David St. Clair; Senior T&TEC engineers Sean Giles and Narendra Biptah; and HSE Inspector, Wahid Abdool, used experiential data to emphasise lessons on fire and electrical safety as they sought to educate the Fire Officers about the Commission's electrical network and infrastructure.

One main area of focus was the safety procedures officers should observe when responding to emergencies in the vicinity of and/or involving electrical

installations, apparatus and infrastructure. These include maintaining prescribed safety clearances from all electrical infrastructure, contacting T&TEC to de-energise and isolate circuits prior to fighting fires and exercising caution when using conductive equipment such as metallic ladders, rods, vehicles and small tools.

Fire Officers of varying ranks, including Assistant Divisional Fire Officer (ADFO), Earl Sampson, were also informed of electrical installation, from generation to the consumer; identifying faulty electrical equipment; low, medium

and high voltage apparatus; and the effects of electricity on the body. ADFO Sampson acknowledged the importance of the session, saying that "as first responders, it's important to our knowledge base."

Mr. Mark encouraged officers to share their new knowledge with their colleagues, and said the session was timely, as "...we must have a common understanding of the dangers that we deal with." Also on hand to address the Fire Officers was T&TEC's Assistant General Manager, Human Resources, Jacqueline Cheesman, expressing that T&TEC is "...mindful of the critical role of Fire Officers to the nation" and that the Commission was "very happy to partner on this initiative."



HSE Manager, David St. Clair during his presentation.



Some of T&TEC's safety tools and equipment on display.



Palo Seco recreation grounds illuminated



The new Minister of Public Utilities, Senator the Honourable Robert Le Hunte reiterated his commitment to the people of Trinidad and Tobago and publicly commended T&TEC for its “consistent and professional manner” in providing service to the nation.

Minister Le Hunte was speaking at his first T&TEC event – the commissioning of lights to the Number 4 Road Recreation Ground in Palo Seco on September 21, held immediately after his attendance at a plaque-unveiling at the nearby Number 8 Road Recreation Ground. At the ceremony, he applauded

T&TEC’s involvement “at the community level”, as his Ministry continues to finance these projects through the Public Sector Investment Programme. It was also just days after hurricane Maria and weeks after hurricanes Irma and Jose hit the region, so he took the opportunity to advise that we “develop a proper national response to natural disasters,” noting that T&TEC put a lot of resources to use after Tropical Storm Bret affected Trinidad in June.

Chairman Keith Sirju also spoke at the event, informing residents of T&TEC’s investment to double the capacity of the Santa Flora Substation from 3MVA to

The Minister of Public Utilities, Sen. the Hon. Robert Le Hunte (centre) poses for a picture with (l-r) Councillor for Erin, Ms. Arlene Ramdeo; Councillor for Palo Seco, Ms. Christine Neptune, Member of Parliament for La Brea, Ms. Nicole Olivierre, and T&TEC’s Chairman, Keith Sirju after doing the honours of switching on the lights at the Number 4 Road Recreation Ground.

6MVA, by installing a new transformer, which will “improve the quality of supply for customers in Palo Seco and environs and provide for future load increases in anticipation of growth and development in [the] area.” This was done in addition to routine maintenance work on overhead lines and an on-going exercise to replace aged poles and remove electrical hazards by clearing overhead lines in surrounding areas.

The ceremony marking the illumination upgrades to two facilities in Palo Seco, ended with the unveiling of the plaque by the Minister and T&TEC officials. They were joined by the Member of Parliament for La Brea, Nicole Olivierre, and followed by the playing of the first cricket game under lights.



Industrial relations caravan

The Industrial Relations Department is seeking to build harmonious relations between employees, the union and management and, as such, have launched an IR caravan, taking its staff throughout the Commission.

So far, two sessions, one at Distribution Central on June 23 and the other at Distribution East on September 14, have taken place. At least one more is expected before year's end. The meetings are being used as a tool in "good human relations" and are considered part of the continuous collaboration required for the tripartite relationship to progress.

Kyle Moona, Industrial Relations Officer said that the first two meetings generally went well and employees were "participative and responsive" and "appreciated the effort" of the Department to have dialogue. At both

meetings, employees were eager for answers on matters related to back pay and job evaluations, but questions also touched on promotions, acting, negotiations and the application of the OWTU agreement for 2012-2014. As it related to the status of jobs still to be evaluated, employees were told that those matters would be determined by the steering committee responsible for job evaluation and negotiations, which are still under deliberation. Employees were also happy to learn that their outstanding 18 percent back pay would be paid in September.

Mr. Moona said that the team was able to satisfactorily answer the questions posed and where matters were specific to the Area, the Area Managers gave support by fielding those questions.

The meetings were led by an IR team that included Manager, Garth Garraway, Senior IR Officer, Nigel Marquez, Mr. Moona and supporting staff. At the end, employees were given bookmarks to remind them of some of the key principles and practices of good industrial relations and natural justice.

I.S. achieves new level of data protection

Following the adage, 'don't put all your eggs in one basket', T&TEC's Information Systems (IS) Department is making moves to split its most precious commodity—data—into several locations to avoid disruption to its service.

As part of the Commission's plan to maintain operations after a natural or other disaster, the Department recently reached a pinnacle in data protection, with the design and implementation

of an offsite Information Technology Disaster Recovery/ High Availability System.

In simple terms, IS employees developed a framework to duplicate data at a secondary location in real-time. In the unlikely event of a problem at the server's primary location at Head Office, including power blackout or component failure, employees now have the ability to continue to access data and operate as normal, with no downtime.

While there have always been mechanisms built-in within the IS servers for data protection, such as secondary disc controllers, multiple drives, and back-up tapes, "having all our data in one location... incurred added risk," said Systems Administrator, Rudra Sankarsingh, who managed the project. Having the offsite system located at King Village since July, adds a new level of information security by ensuring high availability and disaster recovery (DR) of data.



Systems Administrator, Rudra Sankarsingh, monitors the disaster recovery system from his desk.

"It is one step better than just having back-up tapes which, depending on the system, require up to about one week's downtime to restore data" he explained. Now, "once a transaction is updated on the system at our primary site at Head Office, an exact copy is seamlessly updated at the secondary site." Maintaining seamless customer service is especially important to meet the Overall and Guaranteed Electricity Standards set by the Regulated Industries Commission. Employees' ability to access data is therefore paramount if T&TEC is to achieve the requisite level of service.

With assistance from employees of the Communications Department and Services and Maintenance Section, the King Village disaster recovery site was outfitted with all the necessary infrastructure to support the standby servers, including a safe to store all back-up tapes. The site is an extension of the

server room at head office and "the only maintenance necessary is to visit every week to store the back-up tapes (still necessary in case of a physical breach at the primary site) and ensure that the hardware is functioning," said Mr. Sankarsingh.

Since it is an exact duplicate of the primary system, the secondary site has an added benefit of facilitating resource-intensive queries and activities, such as report generation – tasks which would otherwise have to be scheduled for after working hours so as not to overburden the production system.

T&TEC's offsite IT Disaster Recovery/High Availability System took about three months to engineer. At this time it provides unattended real-time replication of mission-critical databases, including Ventyx, which stores all information relating to customers, such as personal data, bill payment



The server rack at the offsite disaster recovery system.

history and meter readings. However, in time, the system will be utilised for other applications such as Peoplesoft, Human Capital Management, PeopleSoft Financials, Itron Enterprise Edition (meter data), Maximo (asset management) and Geographical Information Systems, when the hardware becomes available.

Phase two of the project, to employ a cloud-based server, will provide similar continuity, and will accommodate applications for trouble reports, customer complaints, virtual meetings, etc.



Coastal cleanup volunteers return to Mayaro

T&TEC was, as usual, well represented at this year's International Coastal Cleanup (ICC), held on September 16. After making a positive impact at Mayaro beach last year, approximately 130 volunteers, comprising employees and family, members of the Electrical Association for Women and the Rotaract Club of St. Augustine, returned to

Mayaro to participate in the annual exercise.

From about 9 o'clock, the yellow-clad volunteers got to work in groups and by the time the last bag of garbage was weighed at about 12:00 noon, their efforts were rewarded with a whopping 1,777 pounds of garbage. A

total of 98 bags, coupled with numerous pieces of debris – galvanise sheets, tyres, wooden doors, a baby stroller, broken plastic chairs and a string of Christmas lights – were removed from the beach. The overwhelming majority of trash collected, however, was made of plastic.

According to data from Ocean Conservancy, the nonprofit environmental advocacy group leading the ICC effort, after cigarette butts, the top item removed from beaches worldwide is plastic bottles. This is followed by items like bottle caps, bags, lids, straws and other forms of plastic which, they note, have been found in 62 percent of all sea birds and in 100 percent of sea turtle species. While plastic



Commissioner, Clifford Campbell, a resident of Mayaro is joined by friends Yasmin Khan-Richardson, Personal Assistant to the Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries (right), Bernadette Jarvis, Regional Supervisor, URP and two young assistants.



has become an everyday part of human life, to marine life, the floating plastic in the ocean can look like food and poses a serious threat. To a sea turtle, a plastic bag looks like a jellyfish, while smaller hard pieces can look like fish eggs to seabirds. Drifting nets

and other plastic can entangle birds, fish and mammals. At Mayaro, a total of 2,324 plastic items was removed. To help reduce the amount of plastic getting into our waterways and oceans, recycle and use alternative materials like paper bags, cardboard containers and cloth diapers.



Meet Jelly Marine

*The stylized jellyfish logo and slogan, "**Protect the seas like ready marines**", formed the winning submission by Osei Holder and Eliza Lee Poy of T&TEC's Corporate Communications Department for the ICC Trinidad and Tobago's annual logo competition. The logo was used during the 2017 coastal cleanup campaign and was a call to citizens to do their part to protect our oceans and marine life.*

While the numbers have increased over the last few years, it is hoped that T&TEC's participation in the international coastal cleanup will continue to grow so that we can make a real difference. A problem as big as this requires a big response!



Staff and friends of Distribution Tobago get ready to clean the Sandy Point Beach on September 17

Central Area upgrades

Upgrade works on Central 12kV system

Central Distribution Area in August completed upgrades on the Carlsen Field and Montrose 12kV feeders out of the Chaguanas East 66kV Substation, and the Cunupia 12kV feeder out of the Endeavour Substation. These upgrades will greatly improve the flexibility and load contingency on the 12kV system. The project, led by Overhead Line Engineer Vivian Narine and Substation Engineer Sandeep Ramnarace, was prompted by the increasing load in the Borough, coupled with an inability to transfer load due to limitations in feeder ratings.

Part of the upgrade involved re-conductoring works across the Uriah-Butler Highway and along the Southern Main Road in Chaguanas. While there was some inconvenience to customers and members of the travelling public, the improved system will provide an improvement in the reliability, flexibility and quality of their electricity supply.



The newly-installed overhead lines crossing the highway.

The successful completion of the exercise was due to the dedicated work of the overhead hotline and substation crews, led by Senior Supervisors - Transmission and Distribution, Roland Ramberan and Richard Dhoray, who kept the electricity outages and disruption to customers at a minimum. Employees of

the Protection and SCADA Department also assisted by adjusting the protection settings of the feeders, while the Highways Division of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Traffic Branch, managed the traffic interruptions.

Central Welders reorganise work room

Inspired by the HGTV channel or not, the changes made by the welders of Distribution Central to their work room certainly gave the space a much-needed lift. Not only is it now clutter-free and more aesthetically pleasing, the makeover also helped them to perform their duties more efficiently. The exercise was a tremendous show of pride in their work and surroundings.

Led by Welder 'A', Robert Martin, the welders, recognising tools were often misplaced, which caused delays, decided to construct a tool board where all their tools are clearly arranged and readily accessible and accounted for. At the same time, the men took the opportunity to review and restructure their accommodation so that everything – tools, equipment and their personal effects – is in its correct place.

The improvement has already encouraged greater productivity among the welders, who are often called upon to produce items for the Eastern and Southern Areas, Public Lighting Department and the Transmission Division. It is hoped that they will



Welder 'A', Robert Martin, has the attention of his colleagues in their enhanced work space.



Tools of their trade neatly on display

be able to supply all Areas with these items, which include transformer hangers, outriggers and brackets in the future.

Members of the skilled, certified, committed and now

well-organised welding team are Mr. Martin; Welder 'B', Kareem Alves; and Welder 'C' (Temporary) Ryan Stroude, Peter Joseph and Joash Prime.

One on One with a Muslim

T&TEC's approach to the commemoration of Eid-ul-Fitr, celebrated on June 26, is not just to delve into these celebrations, but to learn more about the Islam lifestyle. In the absence of an Eid event this year, the Watts Happening sat down with Amir Mohammed, a practising Muslim for his entire life and then Acting Assistant Area Manager - Distribution North, to get schooled on the Islamic way of life.

Can you share a bit about your life as a Muslim?

Being a Muslim is a wonderful feeling. It is based on the foundation of One God and submitting to His commands. Allah does not expect us to be perfect, but instead reminds us that He alone is perfect – and that when we make mistakes and errors we will find him Merciful and Forgiving. Adhering to a way of life that He designed brings about a sense of fulfilment and peace – which is what Islam means.

Islam outlines specific guidelines for every aspect of life – from spirituality, to

personal finances, to social services, preservation of the environment, how to dress, what to eat, how to use the washroom in a clean and pure manner. It is very practical and sensible.

What are some of the challenges you have had when practising your faith?

Finding halal chicken in town is very difficult! Seriously though, it can be a challenge finding places to pray and socialise, but these situations also serve as a test for us as Muslims to find ways to maintain our practice in different circumstances. Within T&TEC, most supervisors have been accommodating to Muslims' need to pray during the day, or on Friday.

Generally though, in T&T, we have many facilities and accommodations that Muslims throughout the world do not have. Despite a growing sense of Islamophobia and propaganda, we still continue to practise Islam



Amir Mohammed

freely, despite some isolated incidents.

What is Eid-ul-Fitr; when and how is it celebrated?

Eid-ul-Fitr is the first day after fasting in the month of Ramadan. This is a pillar of Islam. It is like a spiritual retreat for Muslims. It marks the end of a month-long effort of sacrifice, self-restraint, patience and brotherhood – where Muslims are at their optimum level of spirituality and practice. Fasting brings a battle between natural desires and one's spiritual heart so at the end of Ramadan your spiritual heart is well trained to tackle temptations. The day of Eid is a day on which Muslims celebrate having made these efforts in Ramadan. The day begins by praising Allah and being grateful and it is followed by sharing the day with family, friends and also by sharing with the poor and



Eid Mubarak

WATTS HAPPENING

gift exchanges.

What is Eid-ul-Adha; when and how is it celebrated?

Eid-ul-Adha means celebration of sacrifice. It is the 'greater' of the two Eids due to the deeper meaning and significance. It was celebrated on September 1.

This Eid has everything to do with our beloved Prophet Ibrahim (Abraham) peace be upon him (pbuh). It commemorates a command from Allah to Ibrahim (pbuh), to sacrifice his son – for whom he had prayed for many years. This was the ultimate test of his faith – to give up that which he loved the most in this life, in order to show obedience to Allah. The

incident teaches many lessons, the biggest of which is a reminder for us as Muslims to remember that obedience and submission to the Creator is more important than anything else in our lives – despite our love for it.

This Eid is also closely tied in to the fifth Pillar of Islam – Hajj. In this five-day long set of rituals in Makkah, Muslims commemorate many of the actions of Ibrahim (pbuh) and, on the day of Eid, perform a sacrifice. This is also done by Muslims throughout the world. The meat from the sacrifice goes to the poor and needy. The commemoration is just like Ibrahim (pbuh) was willing to give up what he loves, Muslims give up some of their wealth in purchasing and sacrificing an animal, for the

benefit of the less fortunate.

Eid-ul-Adha is not as popular as Eid-ul-Fitr, why?

Simple. We don't usually make sawane on Eid ul Adha! Seriously though, a few reasons I think. There is some general awareness by the population about Ramadan. So there is a build up to its end and to Eid which culminates with a public holiday. Eid-ul-Adha, which occurs on the tenth day of the month of Dhul Hijjah, is generally less known, as there is no public holiday. In some countries, the opposite is true – like in Guyana. There is also no roti and curry on Eid-ul-Adha.

continued on pg 25

EAW ladies look toward the future



The ladies of the Sangre Grande Branch, winners of the Stanley P. Ottley Award for A FIRM Branch.

"Women working towards advancements in electrical knowledge in the 21st century" was the theme of the Electrical Association for Women (EAW) 56th Anniversary Celebrations and 48th Annual Conference. Feature speaker, Sharon Smart-Patron, Lecturer – Graphic & Applied Arts Department at the John Donaldson Technical Institute, urged the women to develop a digital presence and a voice, and to raise the bar so that the Association can become an international brand.

T&TEC's Acting Corporate Communications Manager, Clare Cooper also shared these sentiments in her welcome message. "It is times like these that we are called upon to explore our creativity," Ms. Cooper told the women from nine Branches across Trinidad and Tobago, as she reminded

them that "conservation must be of high priority because consumers would be watching their every penny."

The event was held at the Jerningham Community Centre on June 24. Its purpose was to install a new Central Executive, present awards, and renew a sisterhood founded on a common goal. Cherry-Ann Nicholas and Monica Nelson retained their positions as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson respectively, while Vanessa Reefer was promoted to Secretary and Maureen Taylor Gordon was the newly appointed Assistant Secretary, among other new installations that evening.

This year, the Stanley P. Ottley Award for A FIRM Branch was won by the Sangre Grande Branch, with the Central and Arima Branches placing

second and third respectively. This competition is judged on membership growth, information programmes, attendance at meetings, reporting and fund raising activities. The Collin Matthews Community Award winner for 2017 was won by the Siparia Branch for hosting a career guidance fair that sensitised and educated young people on opportunities in electrical engineering. The Sangre Grande Branch secured second place with its entry, "Trailing the Community", while third place was the Central Branch, with their "Basic Homemakers Electrical Course".

After many recommendations from speakers on the way forward, the EAW ladies ended the evening with a delicious dinner and engaging entertainment.

Ask a T&TEC Muslim continued

What do you think are some misperceptions about these celebrations?

Perhaps when it comes to Eid-ul-Adha, there is a misperception that the sacrifice means that the God of Islam asks for blood sacrifice. This isn't the case, and Allah specifically mentions this in the Qur'an, where He says that it is not blood or meat that He wants from us, but for us to show our piety and obedience in sacrificing some of our material wealth to satisfy His command.

Most of the misconceptions that exist about Islam generally, are the life of violence and terrorism, oppressed women, that Muslims are intolerant of other faiths etc. This is the bigger challenge, which stems from ignorance and paranoia. We find that despite this, people of all faiths are coming to Islam, especially in North America and Europe and most of these people are women.

The onus is on each of us, as Muslims, to rise to the occasion and share the reality of Islam with others and the challenge is for those who are



not Muslims to rise above the temptation to judge Islam by CNN and FOX news. Instead, he suggested, ask a Muslim, read the Qur'an – see for yourself why this is the fastest growing religion in the world.

Correction



In the last Watts Happening, the photo on page 29 of scrabble winner Curvis Francois and competitor, wrongly named his opponent as Loren Bayne. He was, in fact, Charles Bain, of the Eastern Area Sports Club.

We apologise for the error.

African food for Emancipation

Foodies nationwide will know of many local establishments that cater to authentic East Indian, Chinese and Middle Eastern food, but to experience authentic African fare presents much more of a challenge.

To commemorate Emancipation, observed on August 1, the Watts Happening did its own search for African fare and found Queen's Restaurant, located at 17 Bellesmythe Street, Curepe. Its owner, Mary Ekwue, offers authentic African food to take away, dine-in or for catering. Further research uncovered the online blog, www.africanbites.com, which offers a wide variety of African and Caribbean recipes using pantry staples. Some of the more popular recipes are shared with you.

Depending on the region, there are similarities, but also quite significant differences in the eating and drinking habits throughout the African continent. Fufu or fufou, is one staple common in many countries. Made by mashing starchy foods (cassava, plantain, corn, yam) or mixing the ground starchy foods in hot water, it is often served with a hearty stew, soup or sauce, and is eaten by pinching some

of the fufu off in one's fingers and forming it into an easily ingested round ball. The ball is then dipped or used as a scoop in the accompanying dish, and swallowed.

Fufu has the consistency of a sticky dough and is quite bland on its own, so it relies on the accompanying soup for its flavour. It is best shared with friends and family as a communal meal, as it is also communal to make, taking at least two people to transform the starch into fufu. In the traditional method, one person pounds the yams with a large wooden spoon and another turns the fufu so that the consistency is even. Today, many make fufu on the stove top by stirring the ground starch with a little water until cooked.

In the Central African nation of Angola, its national



Fufu

dish, muamba chicken, is an aromatic chicken stew, flavoured with lots of garlic, chilli, vegetables and cooked in palm oil. The chicken is first marinated with garlic, smoked paprika, thyme, and salt then seared in the oil. More garlic, chilli pepper, onions and tomatoes are added to the chicken before adding water



Muamba Chicken

and vegetables (butternut squash or sweet potatoes). Simmer until the chicken is thoroughly cooked and the flavours come together. Ochros are added towards the end for thickness and then you have a spicy, hearty stew, perfect with rice or cornmeal fufu. Comfort food at its best!

We were fortunate to try one of the staples offered at Queen's Restaurant, jollof rice, which is a delicious one-pot rice and chicken dish cooked in a tangy tomato

paste. Its simple appearance is misleading - jollof rice is quite flavourful and its spicy kick leaves one wanting more. Thankfully, it is quite easy to make and is often the dish of choice at social gatherings in many West African countries like Nigeria, Cameroon, Ghana and Sierra Leone. There are several variations to the recipe, but the Nigerian version starts by blending a can of tomatoes, red bell peppers, tomato paste, hot pepper and an onion to a paste and setting aside. Seasoned chicken is browned in some oil and removed. In the same pot, onions and spices (nutmeg, bay leaf) are sautéed, then the tomato blend is added and



Jollof rice

cooked for about 15 minutes. Add chicken stock and washed rice and combine with some butter and minced ginger. Finally, return the chicken and cook, stirring often, until rice is softened. Serve with a fresh salad and fried plantains.

Most countries in the North African region (Morocco, Algeria, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya) have several similar dishes, sometimes with different names. Spices like



An array of Moroccan tagines

turmeric, coriander, anise, ginger, cinnamon, cumin and paprika are extensively used. In Morocco, a typical lunch begins with a series of hot and cold salads, followed by a bubbling tagine - a type of full-bodied dish cooked in a clay pot (tagine). Zaalouk, a smooth eggplant salad similar to our bhaigan choka, is one of the more common salads in Moroccan cuisine.

To make zaalouk, semi-peel and cube two large eggplants (or if desired, roast them whole and scoop the insides out) and place in a pot with some olive oil. Add seeded and chopped tomatoes, garlic,

paprika, cumin, coriander, salt, fresh cilantro and parsley, with a little water and cook, covered, until the vegetables are soft (about 30 minutes). Then mash the vegetables and further cook over medium heat until all liquid evaporates. Serve warm or cold with a slice of lemon (optional), and crusty bread.

After taking this short, culinary journey across Africa, we hope you will be enticed to try these dishes and explore more on your own. The world's second largest continent has a great deal to offer food-wise.



Zaalouk

Employee Update

Appointments, Promotions, Moving On and Accomplishments

PROMOTIONS

NAME	POSITION	AREA/DEPARTMENT
Aavishkah Rampersad	Dr-Vehicles <25000 Lbs.	Distribution North
Adrian Premchan	Meter & Relay Technician III	Metering Services
Akeil Cooper	Linesman 'C'	Distribution South
Allison Drakes-Barker	Administrative Assistant III	Industrial Relations
Alvin Deosaran	Internal Audit Assistant	Internal Audit
Amit Ramdoolarsingh	Stores Attendant	Supplies
Andrea Dhanpaul	Technical Assistant II	Transm Devel & Eng Services
Andrew Spencer	Human Resources Officer I	Human Resources Department
Angus John	Linesman 'C'	Distribution South
Antoinette Forde	Commercial Officer	Distribution North
Beverly Frederick	Customs Officer	Supplies
Brendon James	H.S.E. Co-ordinator I	Distribution South
Brent Beam	Linesman 'C'	Distribution South
Brian Cyprian	Trans. L/Lry.Ldr/B/Lft. Comb	Distribution Central
Cazdale Cuffy	Linesman 'B'	Distribution South
Charmaine Baptiste-Smith	Human Resources Officer III	Industrial Relations
Cheryl-Ann Nelson-Alleyne	Human Resources Officer III	Human Resources Department
Chrystal Joseph	Technical Assistant II	Distribution South
Courtney Tyson	Dispatcher	Supplies
Curt Supersad	Dr-Vehicles < 25000 Lbs.	Distribution North
Darren Sandy	Linesman 'B' (Hotline)	Distribution Tobago
Darriel Mungal	Engineer II	Distribution South
Deirdre Jack	Field Controller	Distribution Tobago
Devanand Ragoonanan	H.S.E Co-ordinator I	Distribution East
Dion Ewing	Technical Assistant II	Distribution Tobago
Don Price	Ganger (Distribution)	Distribution Tobago
Eric Williams	Dr-Vehicles < 25000 Lbs.	Distribution North
Errol Mc Kenna	Electrician 'B'	AGM – Administration
Eugene Peschier	Mechanic 'A'	Distribution East
Evrol Alexander	Linesman 'B' (Hotline)	Distribution Tobago
Fazal Mohammed	Line Clearer Supervisor (T)	Distribution East
Frederick D'arceuil Jr.	Linesman 'B'	Distribution South
Garren Garraway	Human Resources Officer II	Human Resources Department
Gary Lopez	Linesman 'B'	Distribution South
Goutam Heeraman	Human Resources Officer I. – Technical Training	Human Resources Department
Haile Nelson	Linesman 'B'	Distribution South
Harikrishnan Sreekumar	Systems Analyst III	Information Systems
Harold Collins	Field Controller	Distribution North
Jamel Reid	Technical Assistant I	Distribution North
Jamie Kanhai	Meter & Relay Technician III	Metering Services
Jerome Ramasar	Technical Assistant II	Supplies
Joel Richardson	Mechanic 'B'	Distribution East
Kamal Rambharose	Technical Assistant II	Distribution South
Karimah Ali	Engineer I	Supplies
Karla Mohan	Senior Engineer	AGM – Distribution
Keegan Jaggessar	Linesman 'B'	Distribution South
Kerlan Parris	Dr-Vehicles < 25000 Lbs.	Distribution North
Keron Wilkes	Linesman 'B'	Distribution South

PROMOTIONS

NAME	POSITION	AREA/DEPARTMENT
Keshraj Babooram	Linesman 'B'	Distribution South
Kevin Abraham	Info. Technology Tech. III	Information Systems
Kevin Robertson	Hotline Supervisor	Distribution East
Kevon Bryce	Electrician 'A'	Distribution Central
Khadesha Ramsden	Clerk Typist	Distribution Tobago
Kyle Hall	Trans. L/Lry.Ldr/B/Lft. Comb	Distribution Central
Kyle Moona	Human Resources Officer I	Industrial Relations
Lauren Noel	Clerk II	Commercial
Lester James	Ganger (Distribution)	Distribution North
Lex Tom	Linesman 'B'	Distribution South
Melissa Baird	Clerk Typist	Distribution Tobago
Monica Jaikaran	Commercial Officer	Distribution East
Mordecai La Cario	Dr – Vehicles < 25000 Lbs.	Distribution North
Moziah Lewis	Trans. L/Lry.Ldr/B/Lft. Comb	Distribution Central
Nalini Baboolal-Rampath	Human Resources Officer I	Human Resources Department
Navin Dabiesingh	Systems Administrator III	Information Systems
Nick Thompson	H.S.E. Co-ordinator I	Distribution Central
Niksha Ali	Clerk II	Distribution South
Olatungii Belle	Electrician 'B'	Distribution Central
Patricia Harris	Human Resources Officer III	Human Resources Department
Pearlie Chaitan	Senior HR Officer	Human Resources Department
Premdath Persad	Linesman 'B'	Distribution South
Rajesh Seepersad-Singh	Linesman 'B'	Distribution South
Ramish Ramsundar	Linesman 'B'	Distribution South
Ravindra Sharma	Engineer I	System Control & Gen Interface
Rawle Roach	Ganger (Supplies)	Supplies
Razack Ali	Dispatcher	Supplies
Ricardo Soverall	Dr – Vehicles < 25000 Lbs.	Distribution North
Richie Richardson	Linesman 'B'	Distribution South
Rondell Alleyne	Linesman 'B'	Distribution South
Rose-Ann Abraham-Look Tow	Administrative Assistant III	Head – Corporate Support
Samdath Silochan	H.S.E Co-ordinator I	AGM – Transmission
Sasha Rajkumar-Bhimsingh	Clerk II	Public Lighting
Shazam Mohammed	Technical Assistant II	Distribution South
Stefan Boodoosingh	Dr – Vehicles < 25000 Lbs.	Distribution North
Stephen La Guerre	Engineer II	Distribution Central
Stephen Sankeralli	Ganger (Supplies)	Supplies
Susan Adolphus-Roan	Clerk Typist	Communications Department
Tenneson Sombrab	Trans. L/Lry.Ldr/B/Lft. Comb	Distribution Central
Varun Hosein	Substation Supervisor	Distribution Central
Videsh Ramoutar	Telecom Operator	Distribution South
Visham Ramroop	Linesman 'C'	Distribution South
Vyjanti Deborah Yank	Administrative Assistant III	Trans Devel & Eng Services
Wayne Dwarpaal	Dr – Vehicles < 25000 Lbs.	Distribution North
Yamanda Kungerbeharrysingh	Clerk II	Human Resources Department

DEPARTURES

NAME	POSITION	AREA/DEPARTMENT
Cecil Ollivierre	Ganger (Supplies)	Supplies
Cleve Chadee	Substation Supervisor	Distribution East
Colin Walker	Estate Constable	Security – Distribution North
David Valentine	Estate Constable	Security – Distribution East
Garfield Lima	Electrician 'C'	Distribution Tobago
Gregory Lockiby	Subsection Leader	Distribution Central
Ian Da Costa	Linesman 'C'	Distribution North

DEPARTURES

NAME

Cecil Ollivierre
 Cleve Chadee
 Colin Walker
 David Valentine
 Garfield Lima
 Gregory Lockiby
 Ian Da Costa
 Jennifer Mc Collin
 Kimlee Richards
 Lloyd Scott
 Marvin James
 Michael Watkins
 Neville Holder
 Nikisha Davis
 Patrick Brown
 Paul Jacob
 Peggy Joseph
 Pradeep Singh
 Raynold Mc Lean
 Richard Seales
 Rikhi Ouditt
 Robert Williams
 Roland Bernard
 Sandra Ragoonanan
 Steve Gomez
 Winston Samuel

POSITION

Ganger (Supplies)
 Substation Supervisor
 Estate Constable
 Estate Constable
 Electrician 'C'
 Subsection Leader
 Linesman 'C'
 Commercial Officer
 Telecom Operator
 Crew Supervisor
 Estate Constable
 Stores Attendant
 Ganger (Distribution)
 Clerk II
 Senior Human Resources Officer
 Supv-P.O.S. Tr Facility
 Snr HR Officer
 Dr – Vehicles < 25000 Lbs.
 Linesman 'B'
 Linesman 'B' (Hotline)
 Communications Supervisor
 Commercial Officer
 Snr. Supervisor Trans. & Dist.
 Senior Clerk
 Linesman 'A'
 Ganger (Distribution)

AREA/DEPARTMENT

Supplies
 Distribution East
 Security – Distribution North
 Security – Distribution East
 Distribution Tobago
 Distribution Central
 Distribution North
 Distribution East
 Distribution South
 Distribution Tobago
 Security – Distribution Central
 AGM – Transmission
 Distribution North
 Distribution South
 Human Resources Department
 Human Resources Department
 Human Resources Department
 Distribution East
 Distribution Central
 Distribution North
 Communications Department
 Distribution North
 Distribution Central
 Distribution South
 Distribution North
 Distribution North

Two employees pass on

T&TEC's flags flew at half-mast as a tribute to two employees - Francis Bernard and Rohit Balkissoon - who passed away during the last quarter.



Mr. Bernard, a Linesman 'B' Hotline of Distribution Central, passed away on July 19 while on the 3 – 11 p.m. shift. He would have been 44 years in September.

Mr. Bernard first joined T&TEC in 2002 as a temporary Labourer, and after successfully completing the Linesman and Hotline training courses, was appointed in

2006 as Linesman 'C'. In 2007 he was promoted to Linesman 'B' Hotline. He has also acted as Linesman 'A'.

Mr. Bernard will be remembered as a reserved, well respected and dedicated employee.



Rohit Balkissoon, 56, a Labourer at Distribution South, passed away on July 28 after suffering a stroke.

He joined the Commission in 2012 as a temporary Labourer before becoming permanent in 2015. He would have retired in December 2020.

Colleagues recall Mr. Balkissoon to be a committed employee who was well known for his national service to sport, having served on numerous occasions as a scorer for both the Trinidad and Tobago and West Indies Cricket Boards.

We extend our deepest condolences to the families and colleagues of Mr. Bernard and Mr. Balkissoon on their passing. May their souls rest in peace.

Planning for an active hurricane season

The 2017 hurricane season started on June 1st and will run until November 30th. The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) forecasts a 45% chance of an above normal Atlantic hurricane season, more than the 30-year average for the Atlantic Basin.

So far, six hurricanes of various strength have impacted the Caribbean and United States, leaving devastation along their paths. Of note were Tropical Storm Bret which struck Trinidad in June, Hurricane Harvey which devastated parts of Texas and Louisiana, USA in late August and Hurricane Irma, a Category five hurricane, which hit the Leeward Islands of the Caribbean in September.

The frequency and intensity of these 2017 storms have caused major damage to life and property and are an urgent reminder of the need to

be prepared for such events. Now is the time to develop a family emergency plan and we have provided some key points to help you:

- ✓ Have an evacuation plan. Know where nearby emergency shelters are located, in the event of an evacuation. Identify a primary and a secondary shelter. Would you choose to go to a shelter or ride it out at home? If going to a shelter, know how long it could take to get there and what items you would need to take.
- ✓ Identify a secure room in your house that the family can retreat to if you are unable to make it to a shelter.
- ✓ Have a store of potable water, non-perishable food, prescription medication and bedding sufficient for each family member for a few days. Keep bedding and one change of clothes per person in a water proof bag.
- ✓ Purchase tools for simple repairs such as a cordless drill, screw driver set, hammer, hand saw, nails etc.
- ✓ Ensure you have an up-to-date first aid kit.
- ✓ Keep important documents in a watertight case. Now is a good time to ensure your insurances are up to date and verify the extent of your coverage.
- ✓ Check that your roof is properly secured.
- ✓ Consider what will happen to your pets in case of evacuation or if your home

continued on page 31

"Angel Harps" still committed to Enterprise 10 years later



A cross-section of participants

Despite a further drop in numbers, the T&TEC Tropical Angel Harps Steel Orchestra (TAHSO) hosted its 10th Annual Spelling Bee on July 15 with the same vigour and dedication it applied in previous years.

Band Manager, Clarry Benn, acknowledged that conflicts with schools' term schedule (registration for the 'Bee' opens around SEA exam time) and other competing activities in the Enterprise and wider Chaguanas area have impacted participation, but said he was satisfied with the approximately 45 students who registered. He, however, noted that the spelling bee and the band's August music camp have some dedicated students and parents who

anticipate the annual events and greatly appreciate the work TAHSO continues to do in the frequently marginalised community.

The children showed their appreciation by maintaining tight competition throughout this year's near four-hour event. When the last syllable was sounded, approximately eighty rounds had been completed. The afternoon started with the six to seven years age category and after a "very, very long" time, according to one audience member, moved into the eight to ten year olds. Long-time competitor Brianna Singineau topped the group of nine after twenty two rounds. The judges were compelled to bring out the "big words" around the

half-way point as each child had spelled their word with little challenge.

At registration, competitors are given a list of possible words to memorise but they never know what they would have to spell. Each child has two minutes to spell their word. If the category list is exhausted then the judges move to a supplemental list. It wasn't clear if the original list had been completed at the mid-point, but the more challenging words were a clear attempt to whittle down the group faster. Words like Tabaquite, Xylophone, Dimanche Gras and Carapichaima were enough of a phonetic puzzle to some but were no match for

Brianna, Ronaldo Persad and Sydney Blackman; the latter two placing second and third respectively.

The six competitors in the eleven to thirteen category fought a similarly bruising 22-round set immediately after their younger counterparts. Despite placing third, Skydell Brewster was perhaps the most impressive, having flown into the country from the US that same morning and beating jet lag to take pride of place on the rostrum. Sisters Samara and Sanura Beharry placed first and second respectively. In a touching moment, Samara had to be comforted during the prize giving as she broke down in tears, seemingly pained that she beat her sister. She did manage to recover quickly enough to flash a weak smile for the cameras.

The most visible dent in the competition this year was in the 14 to 17 age group, which had only two participants. Afiya Pascall and Sydney Persad stuck it out for fifteen rounds, with Afiya overcoming last year's disappointment of third place to take first.

It was notable that at all levels, the competitors, particularly those who return annually, demonstrate a familial relationship that belies the stakes at play.

This suggests there has been success in TAHSO's aim to positively impact the lives of the impressionable in the Enterprise community. Considering also the neutrality of the pan yard, the homework

centre and core music programmes hosted by the band, the T&TEC Tropical Angel Harps Steel Orchestra is clearly committed to the development of Enterprise, Chaguanas.



Spelling Bee champ, Brianna Singineau collects her prizes.



Above and Below: Nervous competitors face the judges.



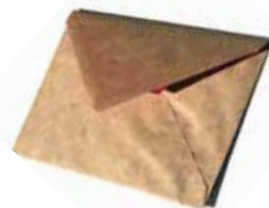
The Shocking Truth

Remember your curious childhood days of trying to stick a fork in the toaster, playing around electrical sockets and interacting with electrical cords? Well, this game collates some of these blunders, together with commendable acts, while interacting with electrical appliances and infrastructure. So grab your dice and play to see if you and your friends can handle the shocking truth.



LETTERS

The following are excerpts of some letters and emails that have been received over the last quarter.



June 29, 2017

I would like to say a sincere thank you to T&TEC for the amazing service and response to a call for help after Tropical Storm Bret, at La Horquette Villas, Glencoe on Monday June 26.

The gentleman's response on the trouble report line was, "I will send out an emergency

crew right away," and within 30 minutes I received a call from the gentleman advising that the repair truck, headed by Mr Cato with his work crew, were nearing pole 29. I went to the roadside and the truck had just arrived.

I explained the problem to Mr. Cato, who was very polite, and the problem was resolved within an hour.

With everything being negative in our beloved island it was so good to have had a very positive experience.

T&TEC, that was an amazing experience and it brought back memories of the good old days when people cared.

Robin Law
Glencoe

Planning for an active hurricane season continued

is damaged/ destroyed.

Remember to have plenty of water and food for them. ID tags and photos will assist in case they go missing.

✓ Identify a secure location for storage of outdoor furniture and other possible projectiles in high wind.

✓ Have batteries and flashlights.

✓ Have a battery pack to charge phones and tablets. If you can't get a battery pack, write down important contact

information that you store in your phone.

✓ Have a battery operated radio.

✓ Know the location of your electricity and water supply connections in case you have to disconnect your supply.

✓ Plan on filling your vehicle's gas tank and getting cash from the ATM in case Linx and credit card systems go down.

✓ It might be a good idea to have some sheets of plywood on hand to secure

doors and windows rather than rush to the hardware if a warning is issued. The same thing goes for sand bags to stem flooding.

✓ Assign each family member specific responsibilities so in the event a hurricane or storm warning is announced (24 hours to land fall) you can quickly put your plan into action.

