



# PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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**DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION INITIATIVES**

**PRESENTER- MR. JULIEN OGILVIE- PROCEDURAL CLERK**

**THURSDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2022**

# INITIATIVES

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1. Supporting the work of Members of Parliament
2. Optimizing Internal Processes
3. Connecting more effectively with the Public

# SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT

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## Paperless Parliament Initiative

- An e-repository called the *ROTUNDA* was fully operationalized in 2020
- This SharePoint platform serves as an information hub that allows Parliamentarians remote access to all Parliamentary documents
- Has eliminated the need for MPs to receive physical copies of Parliamentary documents
- Members and Staff can access this application remotely on any device or location
- All Members are equipped with **Ipads/Tablets** to access this Application



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## Parliamentary Calendar

| September 2022  |         |                            |          |        |                              |        |
|---|---------|----------------------------|----------|--------|------------------------------|--------|
| MONDAY  | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY                  | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY                     | SUNDAY |
| 29  | 30      | 31<br>Independence Day (Tr | 1        | 2      | 3                            | 4      |
| 5   | 6       | 7                          | 8        | 9      | 10                           | 11     |
| 12<br>01:30 pm - 04:00 pm<br>1st Sitting of the House | 13      | 14                         | 15       | 16     | 17                           | 18     |
| 19  | 20      | 21                         | 22       | 23     | 24<br>Republic Day (Trinidad | 25     |
| 26<br>01:30 pm - 06:30 pm<br>2nd Sitting of the House | 27      | 28                         | 29       | 30     | 1                            | 2      |

# OPTIMIZING INTERNAL PROCESSES

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## Hansard Transcript Production- Software upgrades

- Upgrade of software utilized by the Hansard Unit (SLIQ)
- CAT Reporters produce draft transcripts within 24 hours of a Sitting or Committee meeting
- Edited transcripts are posted on the website within 2 to 5 days

# CONNECTING MORE EFFECTIVELY WITH THE PUBLIC

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## Redesigned Website

- More user-friendly
- More open access to Parliamentary information. Papers laid in both Houses are now accessible to the public including Auditor General Reports, Annual Reports, Ministers' Statements etc
- Online surveys by Joint Select Committees
- Virtual Tours of the Red House and Art Gallery

# CHALLENGES

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**Tech Skills Barrier:** Some members have complained about challenges interacting with the information hub. This may be attributed to gaps in knowledge about the technology.

## Recommendation

- Creating tutorial/demonstrative videos to assist members to better embrace the technological changes
- IT staff are available to render assistance to members

# CHALLENGES

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Virtual interfaces have minimized the collective-thinking effect that would be achieved during face-to-face meetings (initial stage).

## Recommendations

- Facilitate hybrid committee meetings where a subset of the committee can join the Chairman and secretarial team at the Parliament Building while others attend virtually.
- The creation of WhatsApp chat groups for each JSC, has allowed members and staff to instantaneously communicate



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THANK YOU