ABSTRACT

PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH NON-WASA OWNED WASTEWATER FACILITIES

Amna Tota

At present, there are more than one hundred and twenty (120) wastewater treatment plants in Trinidad and Tobago of which approximately eleven are owned and operated by the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA). The National Housing Authority (NHA) owns and operates a further thirteen wastewater treatment plants. The other wastewater treatment plants, which amounts to approximately one hundred are the responsibility of Private Developers and State Agencies such as the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of National Security, the Tourist Board and the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) to name the main ones.

Most of these non-WASA owned wastewater treatment plants are in a state of disrepair and discharges untreated or inadequately treated wastewater into the environment. This poses a serious health risk along with other environmental problems.