

ABSTRACT

A PROJECT PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION MODEL FOR PUBLIC SECTOR AGENCIES IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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The Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has suffered in the past from ill-conceived macro projects which have utilised public funds and which have not provided commensurate national benefit.

In the present context of the country's financial constraints, it is vital for the nation's planners to nurture projects providing maximum benefit at minimum cost. Cost and time overruns are anathema to present circumstances and proper planning and implementation techniques are vital.

With this background of fact, the objectives of the Research Paper can be summarised as follows:-

- 1) to investigate present public sector planning and implementation methods;
- 2) to comment on the adequacy and efficiency of these methods;
- 3) to develop and introduce a standard model for planning and implementation of large projects;
- 4) to apply the model to a conceived public sector large project;

- 5) to provide an adequate format for presentation of project plans to approving or financing agencies.

The methods utilised to achieve these objectives included personnel interviews at public sector agencies, standard management techniques and tools adopted in some cases to suit local conditions, and finally design information available on the proposed Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission's Mt. Hope Distribution Depot.

It is evident after investigation and research that no single project planning model is presently utilised and projects are planned basically on an ad hoc basis. With this unsatisfactory situation present, a systematic method of planning projects is developed using standard management techniques adapted for this specific purpose. The model can be utilised at the pre-construction stage to present to approving and funding agencies and also during construction to provide project performance specifications and project control.

It is envisaged that adoption of the project planning format can have significant positive effects on public sector project cost and time efficiency. Uniformity in approach can have significant advantage in our multi-agency project implementation scenario.

Whereas previously, some of the management tools and techniques utilised and developed in the model have been utilised in isolation, the model provides a welcome sequential and systematic format for utilising these techniques to maximum benefit in project presentation, planning and implementation.