

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REPORT 2001

Prepared by:

***The Planning Research and Development Section
Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports
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INTRODUCTION

The Economic and Social Report is an annual document prepared by the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs. This document is used in the Estimates Debate on Revenue and Expenditure.

The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports is responsible for submitting information pertaining to the annual Economic and Social report to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

This information provided covers those projects completed during the past year and those projects started, but not completed up to the time that this information was prepared.

Information was received from the Education Sector Enhancement Programme (ESEP), Finance Department, Testing and Measurement, Schools' Supervision and Management, Education Project Implementation Unit (EPIU), Student Services, Curriculum Development, Parent Volunteer Support Services and Higher Education Awards.

Following is the information to be submitted to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs.

OVERVIEW

A. Education and Training

The undergirding principle influencing educational development during the year 2001 was the continuing implementation of the Revised Curriculum. This curriculum is based on a constructivist philosophy, which gives students the opportunity to operate at different levels within the classroom, experience multiple methods of learning and assessment, think divergently, and apply the knowledge gained to real-life situations. Other key components of the restructuring educational system are (a) information technology which drives the revised curriculum, (b) continuous assessment which periodically evaluates the acquired skills of students, and (c) the enhancement of professionalism among teachers through the process of teacher appraisal. The outcome of the above is the student whose positive attributes and values will make him/her a productive member of society.

B. Education Budget

EDUCATION EXPENDITURE			
PROGRAMME	Approved Expenditure 1999/00	Approved Expenditure 2000/01	Approved Expenditure 2001/02
Central Administration	9,442,423	9,761,912	10,336,118
Teacher Training	2,706,206	2,921,804	3,547,899
Basic Edu.Dev	80,729,268	86,085,068	89,769,075
Secondary Education	92,518,368	101,470,329	100,207,400
Tertiary Education	84,349,609	87,339,146	100,440,668
Adult Education	4,228,445	8,584	750,000
Special Services	23,618,665	25,186,149	25,043,781
Culture	18,672,486	20,875,152	21,425,281
TOTAL	316,265,470	333,648,144	351,520,222

The approved expenditure of the Ministry of Education for financial year 2001/2002 totalled \$351.5 million, a 5.4 percentage increase over the \$333.6 million approved during the financial year 2000/2001. Secondary education was allocated \$100.2 million, marginally below the \$101.5 for 2000/2001, while \$100.4 million was assigned to tertiary, some 15 percent higher than the previous year.

Approximately \$89.8 million was allocated to primary education compared with \$86.1 million for the fiscal year 2000/2001. The allocation to special services showed a slight decline from \$25.2 million in 2000/2001 to \$25.0 million in 2001/2002. Central administration showed a 5.9 percent increase from \$9.8 million in 2000/2001 to \$10.336 million in 2001/2002. The allocation to teacher training rose sharply to \$3 547 899 million in financial year 2001/2002, or 21.4 percent higher than in 2000/2001 when it was \$2.9 million.

Adult education also rose dramatically from \$8,584 in 2000/2001 to \$750 000 in 2001/2002 an increase of approximately \$742 000 dollars.

C. Education Sector Enhancement Programme (Edutech 2000)

During the period 2001/2002, the Phase 1 schools of the Civil Works component of the Education Enhancement Programme were completed. These are the Christ Church Boys, Cuthbert Moore, Deacons Primary, The Irving Wilson School, Sharon, South District, St. Mary's Primary, Westbury Primary, Combermere, Alexandra, Ellerslie and the St. James Secondary Schools. All of the Phase 1 schools have their Hardware and operating.

During this period also, Civil Works commenced on seven (7) primary schools in the Phase 11 category of the ESEP. These schools are St. Luke's Brighton, St. Paul's, St. Matthew's, Grazettes, Pine Primary and St. Jude's. Civil Works have been completed at Mount Tabor Primary. Contracts for St. Alban's and St. Andrew Primary are expected to be awarded before March 31, 2002. Contracts have been awarded for five (5) secondary schools in this Phase – the Alleyne, Louis Lynch, Princess Margaret, Queen's College and St. Lucy.

Training, which is a critical component of the education reform process, was carried out in the following areas: Basic Technology Mastery; Educational Leadership; School Financial Management; School Administrative Procedures; and Indigenous Software Development. Secretary Treasurers and Librarians received training, in the Management of School Libraries.

D. Testing and Measurement

For the period under review, the Testing and Measurement Unit (TMU) focused on a number of areas including the development of a programme of continuous assessment in primary schools, and for the improvement on the execution of the criterion-referenced tests. Cabinet has approved the establishment of the National Accreditation Board, which is with the Chief Parliamentary Council for drafting. The Ministry continued to work towards the development of profiles for students who sat the Barbados Secondary Schools Entrance Examination (BSSEE) to transfer to secondary schools.

For the first time the CXC assisted the TMU with the preparation of the 2001 BSSEE examination papers. In addition, the unit prepared examinations in both Mathematics and English Language for Prison Officers and Fire Officers. An Item Writing Workshop was held in an attempt to create an item bank for the Criterion Referenced Tests.

E. School Supervision and Management

The School Supervision and Management Section recognises that principals and teachers are at the centre of the success of all reform measures. During the period under review, this Section provided professional training for acting school managers and temporary teachers, equipping them with requisite skills and knowledge to strengthen their capacity to deliver quality education.

The Education Officers also benefited from institutional strengthening activity. A consultant from the London Institute of Education conducted a workshop and officers were exposed to varying patterns of supervision and gained valuable knowledge of techniques and skills of effective supervision, with emphasis on observation, assessment and evaluation.

The School Supervision and Management Section undertook responsibility for the supervision of the Teacher Appraisal Pilot in schools. Although many schools completed the pilot phase during this period, a further extension of a term was given. During this time, principals and teachers benefited from additional training in Clinical Supervision.

F. Education Project Implementation Unit

The Education Project Implementation Unit, as the name implies, has specific responsibility for the co-ordination and the implementation of the projects and programmes of the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports. The department offers Procurement, Accounting and Administrative guidance to projects both foreign and locally funded.

(a) Human Resource Project

During the current Financial Year the Education Project Implementation Unit was able to utilise the amount of BDS\$750,000.00 to purchase materials for the Audio Visual Aids Department and the Barbados Community College.

The Education Project Implementation Unit in collaboration with the World Bank were able to successfully compile and complete the Implementation Completion Report for the Project. This is an evaluation report, which examines the failures, successes and sustainability of World Bank Projects.

(b) Barbados Language Centre Project

For the Financial Year 2001-2002 the Ministry was able to tender for and contract the Design and Supervision Consultants for the project.

In addition, the Ministry has made significant progress in the drafting of the terms of reference and the tender document for the hiring of a Consultant to co-ordinate the technical assistance envisaged for this project.

(c) The New School Meals Centre Project

The Tender for the provision of Design and Supervision Consultants for this project closed on October 24, 2001 and was opened on October 25, 2001. The required technical evaluation has been carried out for the twenty (20) submissions received and the appropriate recommendation has been forwarded to the Tenders Committee.

(d) The Secondary Education Project

During the period, a parent's manual on children with special needs was prepared and distributed throughout the community to address the need for clear guidance to parents and others concerned, on any of the variety of special needs

that may be encountered. On November 16, 2001 there was an official launch of the Parent's Manual.

After careful examination by the Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports, The Special Tenders Committee, the Caribbean Development Bank and the Cabinet of the bids and all relevant circumstances impacting on the bids, it was agreed that the contract for civil works activity at the St. Leonard's Boys commenced on July 30, 2001 and is scheduled to be completed by July 21, 2002.

The purchase and delivery of equipment to the Lester Vaughn and the St. Leonard's Boys' Secondary School continued.

Education Sector Enhancement Programme

Phase I

All four government secondary schools under Phase 1 were completed during the period.

School / Contractor	Completion Date
Alexandra Secondary China State Construct.	2001-01-19
Ellerslie Secondary China State Construct.	2001-04-12
Combermere Ajax Construction	2001-06-15
St. James Secondary China State Construction	2001-08-23

The tender for the Private schools under Phase I have been completed and the evaluation reports on the Metropolitan School and the St. Gabriel School have been forwarded to the Tenders Committee for a recommendation on the award of contracts.

Phase II

Seven of the eleven primary schools under Phase II of the programme have commenced and are at various stages of completion.

- In respect of St. Andrew, construction should commence in March 2002.

- The Tender documents have been completed and commencement of the tendering period for the Carrington-Erdiston Primary is expected in January 2002.
- The preparation of the tender documents for the St. Bernard's Primary School is well advance and the design, tendering and award of contract are planned to allow for an April, 2002 start of works.
- The closing and opening dates for the St. Alban's Primary were November 21 and 22, 2001 respectively. Construction start-up is January 2002.

Secondary Schools

On December 07, 2001 the Ministry received from the Caribbean Development Bank a no objection for the award of contracts in respect of the five tenders:

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Contract Price</u>	<u>Duration</u>
China State Construction Engineering (Barbados) Corporation	Alleyne	2 245 603.49	28 weeks
China State Construction Engineering (Barbados) Corporation	Louis Lynch	1 944 115.02	28 weeks
China State Construction Engineering (Barbados) Corporation	St. Lucy	1 769 204.45	20 weeks
China State Construction Engineering (Barbados) Corporation	Queen's College	1 878 792.77	28 weeks
Ajax Construction Inc.	Princess Margaret	2 637 204.77	30 weeks

During the period under review the five consulting teams advanced the design work on the Phase 3 schools

School	Status
Grantley Adams Secondary	Final Designs completed; tender documents to be completed by February 2002
Coleridge & Parry	The majority of designs well advance
St. Michael Secondary	Tender documents should become available by February 2002
Deighton Griffith Secondary	Tender documents under preparation
Foundation Secondary	Final designs to commence
St. David's South District	Designs well advance
West Terrace Primary	Tender documents to become available in January 2002
St. Lucy Primary	Tender Documents to become available in February 2002
St. Lawrence Primary	Tender documents to be completed by January 2002
Ann Hill	Designs for this school are still under consideration
Lawrence T Gay Primary	The Ministry is currently revisiting the scope of works at this school

G. Student Services

During the period under review, a Manual for Student Services was developed which outlined approaches to the delivery of services to students referred, support to parents and guardians and provided guidelines for the operation of the counselling, psychological, special needs and school attendance services. Since this Section consults with social service agencies and other organisations, Student Services played a vital role in facilitating the setting up

of an inter agency committee designed to offer a holistic approach to address multiple problems faced by students and their families. In this way, a system of referral is envisioned that fosters a series of linkages, co-ordination and co-operation.

The Ministry in recognising that the increasing number of referrals far outweighed the present staff available in Student Services responded by requesting an increase in staff to include a counsellor, a social worker and a senior psychologist.

Highlights during the academic year focussed on special needs of children, parents, guardians and stakeholders in special education. To this end, Student Services co-ordinated a National Consultation on Special Education that informed the drafting of a Special Needs Education Policy. A glossary of Definitions of Special Education Terms was developed for use by all teachers as a guide and as a first point of reference.

Student Services embarked on its initial parent session for a group of parents and guardians drawn from referrals made to Student Services and from a list of students with chronic problems in absenteeism. Since parents and guardians are our most valued resources, their support, co-operation and approval are key factors to their children's success.

The Joint Patrol between the Ministry of Education (School Attendance Department) and the Royal Barbados Police Force recommenced in September 2000. This joint venture aims at reducing loitering of students in bus stands,

outlying areas, and in abandoned houses and visiting homes of parents whose children refuse to go to school and have high incidences of absenteeism. During September 2000 and July 2001, a police vehicle was used to patrol and conduct home visits. Student Services obtained a commuter van for this purpose in September 2001.

H. Curriculum Development

Curriculum development continued at both the secondary and primary levels in order to meet the changing demands of the society. There was substantial progress to date in the implementation of the curriculum reform. The revised curricula at the Reception (4 - 5 years) and Class 1 (7 – 8) levels were piloted at all primary schools. Piloting of the revised curricula at the Infants A (5 - 6) and Class 2 (8 – 9) levels began at the primary schools. Piloting also commenced in the secondary schools at Levels 1 and 11 of the six-level revised secondary curriculum. For the first time in Barbados, Attainment Targets or Standards have been developed for each year group at the primary level. These standards include targets for Social and Emotional Learning as well as targets which address the infusing of values into the curriculum through use of the creative arts.

I. Parent Volunteer Support Programme

The Parent Volunteer Support Programme continues to play a supporting role in pre-primary education. During the review period a small number of persons left the programme but this did not compromise its effectiveness since there are always parents ready to join the programme. The volunteers were exposed to continuous training. The Parent Volunteer Support Programme is run jointly with the National Council of Parent Teachers Associations. Fifty-nine schools are currently benefiting from the programme.

J. Tertiary Enrolments

Institution	00/01 Full- time	00/01 Part- time	Total	01/02 Full- time	01/02 Part- time	Total
UWI						
Undergraduates	1450	1181	2631	1347	1333	2680
Postgraduates	75	107	182	55	62	117
Total	1525	1288	2813	1402	1395	2797
B.C.C	2702	1375	3844	-	-	-
	* 233 cross divisions			-	-	-
SJPP	953	1868	2821	919	1558	2477
Erdiston	-	-	-	73	-	-
Total	-	-	-	73	-	-

K. Higher Education

The Higher Education Section has the responsibility for administering scholarships and exhibitions, bursaries, National Development Scholarships, enabling grants and associate degree awards. In addition to the usual processing of Barbados Scholarships and Exhibitions from the “A” level results, the section was involved in implementing the new policy initiative whereby eligible Associate Degree graduates of the Barbados Community College are now entitled to Barbados Scholarships, Barbados Exhibitions and Awards of Excellence.

During the year 2001-2002, two (2) Barbados Scholarships, two (2) Exhibitions, and four (4) Awards of Excellence were granted to Associate Degree graduates of the Barbados Community College. Nine (9) Barbados Scholarships and thirteen (13) Exhibitions were also awarded to sixth form students based on their “A” level results.

Over the years, Barbados has benefited from a number of Commonwealth Post Graduate Scholarships offered by the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand. During the year 2001, the United Kingdom awarded three (3) post graduate scholarships to Barbadians. Canada made no awards to Barbados because of financial constraints. Barbados received one (1) postgraduate award from New Zealand, out of a total of awards made by that country to all Commonwealth countries during 2001.

L. Early Childhood Education

The Early Childhood Education is an integral part of the Ministry's thrust in improving the literacy, numeracy and social skills of 3 to 4 year olds to enable them to better cope with curriculum at a primary and secondary level. To this end the Ministry will continue to encourage the expansion of the ECE programme to cater to all pupils of the 3 to 4 year age group.

During the year under review the Early Childhood Education Committee completed Attainment Targets for the 3-5 age group and designed Attainment Targets for the 5-7 age group.

The Basic Skills Assessment Battery (BSAB) was designed to be administered to all children in the 4-5 age group on entering reception classes throughout the system.

The ECE officer worked in collaboration with the National Disabilities Unit to draft a revised Health Record for schools and passports for parents as part of the Unit's "Early Intervention Programme."

The Officer continued to facilitate the Learning Activities Component of the Basic Training Programme for parents working with children birth through age five in conjunction with the Child Care Board and NCH Action for Children.

M. Outlook for 2002

The Ministry of Education, Youth Affairs and Sports will continue to pursue present and new initiatives to further enhance the quality of education in Barbados. Some of these are spelt out below:

- ? The completion of Phase 2 public and secondary schools and the start of Phase 3 public secondary schools. Included will be the private secondary Seventh Day Adventist.
- ? There will be continued focus on the development and monitoring of instructional leadership capacity within the school, teacher appraisal and the facilitating of orientation sessions for new temporary teachers, acting principals and senior teacher.
- ? The Student Services that will start work on transitional programmes for the mentally challenged at the Ann Hill School; put in place a 30 hr workshop course in Dyslexia for 35 primary schools; training in Autism for appraisal officers and training a group of primary school teachers in Speech and Language Skills.
- ? Within the context of curriculum reform attention will be given to the analysis of reading difficulties in primary schools and the junior levels of secondary school. Teachers will be exposed to activities that would enable them to alleviate the weakness of

students. There will also be the full implementation of the Class one syllabus; piloting of the revised syllabus at Infants B and Class three at the Primary schools; piloting of syllabuses at levels 3 and 4; distribution of the Attainment Targets for Class three and the sale of Class three attainment targets to parents; administration of Reading Level Test and the hosting of workshops for CAPE and CSEC subjects.

- ? Every effort in being made to reach universal coverage in the Parent Volunteer Programme during the school year 2002/2003.
- ? The Ministry will be continuing effort to further the completion of work on the CDB Secondary Education, the Barbados Language Centre and the New School Meals Headquarters and Centre.
- ? Work with the Management Information System will embrace linking all schools that have been equipped with Information technology to the Ministry of Education, upgrade existing network infrastructure to provide greater bandwidth throughout the Ministry; and complete the implementation of Unicenter TNG to remotely manage the EduTech Network.
- ? The continuing development of testing and assessment modules as an integral part of the Curriculum Reform initiatives.