



THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC
OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTRY OF ENERGY TO USE SPECIAL DYE TO TRACK ILLEGAL DIESEL TRADE

The Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs (MEEA) has established a committee to develop a holistic system for managing, tracking and stemming the illegal sales of subsidized diesel currently taking place in Trinidad and Tobago.

This committee is to advise the Honourable Minister on all matters necessary to have a Subsidised Diesel Identification and Authentication System (SFIAS) implemented for managing and tracking usage of subsidized diesel. In 2011, the Ministry began to aggressively action reports of the illegal trade of subsidized diesel with a view to eliminating this trade and to reduce Government's subsidy bill.

A pre-approval system for subsidized volumes was introduced for trawlers and other users in excess of 100 litres by the MEEA in collaboration with several stakeholders. The diesel subsidy at the end of the first ten months of fiscal 2012 stands at \$3.65 billion.

The introduction of this "fuel maker and authentication system" will complement other strategies being pursued by the Ministry. The system to be developed will allow for the use of special fuel additives such as *dyes, nano-scale molecular markers, tracers and taggants*, with unique signatures or chemical coding that can be added to subsidized diesel in Trinidad and Tobago for tracing and differentiation from other fuels.

The Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs, shall be the head of the Coordination Committee. Working Groups shall be assigned to advance specific tasks of the Coordination Committee.



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Among the stakeholders involved in the process will be CARIRI; the Metrology Unit, Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards; Ministry of Transport; the Chemistry, Food and Drugs Division of the Ministry of Health; the Consumer Affairs Division of the Ministry of Legal Affairs; National Petroleum Marketing Company Limited; United Independent Petroleum Marketing Company Limited; and the Petroleum Dealers' Association.

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