



MEDIA RELEASE

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MPAAI Launches AI Academy in Partnership with UNDP, CAF, and UNICC

Port of Spain, Trinidad – The Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence (MPAAI) today officially launched the **AI Academy**, a six-month capacity-building pilot programme designed to strengthen artificial intelligence (AI) skills across the public service.

The launch was held via a live webinar on Tuesday February 3rd 2026, featuring remarks from representatives of MPAAI, CAF, and UNDP including **Nariya Baksh**, Director, Public Service Academy, MPAAI; **Bernardo Requena**, Director Representative of CAF in Trinidad and Tobago; and **Ugo Blanco**, Resident Representative, UNDP Trinidad and Tobago. The session also included a live demonstration of the AI Academy platform led by UNICC, and was followed by a question-and-answer segment.

*“The AI Academy embodies the Ministry’s mandate, founded on three core pillars: **Digital Services, Smart and Efficient Government, and a Digital Nation**,” said Baksh. “To achieve this mandate, our initiatives must be built on robust education and the empowerment of Trinidad and Tobago’s greatest asset—our people.”*

Speakers highlighted the strategic importance of the Academy, describing it as a **pioneering initiative** that comes at a pivotal moment for Trinidad and Tobago and the wider Caribbean public sector.

Implemented by the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** in partnership with the **United Nations International Computing Centre (UNICC)**, and supported financially by **CAF – Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean**, the Academy aims to equip public officers with practical, responsible AI skills while fostering the development of real-world AI solutions aligned with national priorities.

Approximately **100 public sector professionals** will participate in structured AI training, with **10 officers** engaging directly in the hands-on development of **two to three AI prototype use cases** through a secure AI

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Sandbox environment. The programme will also provide MPAAI with practical guidance on implementing AI projects, including best practices for data governance, training, cross-agency collaboration, and infrastructure planning.

Strategically, the pilot aligns with the Government's **digital transformation and innovation agenda**, addressing critical capacity gaps and enabling evidence-based decision-making and more efficient service delivery.

The AI Academy represents a timely initiative, positioning MPAAI to harness technological change for the benefit of citizens while setting a benchmark for **innovation across the public sector**.

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