



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence

Media Release

Tuesday 21st July 2026

MPAAI CORRECTS FALSE CLAIMS IN SUNDAY GUARDIAN REPORT ON AI DATA CENTRE

The Ministry of Public Administration and Artificial Intelligence (MPAAI) firmly rejects the misleading claims contained in the front-page article written by Asha Javeed and published in the Sunday Guardian on 19 July 2026.

The report alleges that the Government has secretly advanced infrastructure for an artificial intelligence (AI) data centre. That claim is patently false and is built on a fundamental error.

It conflates an inherited Government data-centre project initiated under the former People's National Movement (PNM) administration with a separate commercial AI infrastructure initiative now being explored by the present Government. They are not the same project.

As reflected in Cabinet documents approved in 2022, the former PNM Government proposed a Tier IV National Data Centre at Phoenix Park Industrial Estate to support Government digital services, strengthen national cybersecurity and reduce the State's reliance on costly external data hosting arrangements. Despite those plans, the project was never completed or operationalised by the former administration.

The distinction is straightforward.

A Tier IV National Data Centre is designed to provide secure Government data storage and digital services. Its Tier IV classification refers only to the reliability and resilience of the facility. It is not a measure of artificial intelligence capability.

By contrast, the AI facilities contemplated under the Government's Memoranda of Understanding with Ernst & Young LLP and Hummingbird AI Holdings are proposed commercial, high-performance computing facilities intended to support enterprise AI and other advanced computing applications. They involve a completely different technical architecture, investment model and purpose.

COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Level 13 & 14, Tower C International Waterfront Centre, 1A Wrightson Road Port-of-Spain 100509, Trinidad and Tobago



(868) 612-4638 Ext. 1501



www.mpaai.gov.tt



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The report also wrongly presents procurement activity and Memoranda of Understanding as evidence that a commercial AI data centre already exists. They do not. Procurement is not proof that a facility has been completed or commissioned, and an MOU is not a construction contract or final investment approval.

The MPAAI therefore rejects both the highly questionable headline and the central premise of the Sunday Guardian report. They are based on a misconstruction of the underlying projects and technical concepts, leading to conclusions that are unsupported by the facts.

It is particularly concerning that a report of this nature should appear on the front page of a national newspaper without the technical rigour, balance and verification that the public is entitled to expect.

The MPAAI trusts that future media reporting on matters of national importance will be guided by the principles of accuracy, fairness, context and proper verification that underpin responsible journalism.

The MPAAI remains committed to transparency, the modernisation of Trinidad and Tobago's digital infrastructure, and the responsible advancement of artificial intelligence in the national interest.

We will continue to place accurate information before the public and will respond whenever misinformation threatens to distort matters of national importance.

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