

TOBAGO REQUESTS...

## \$4.91B BUDGET FOR 2018

Tobago's budget proposal for the 2017-2018 financial year is \$4.91 billion.

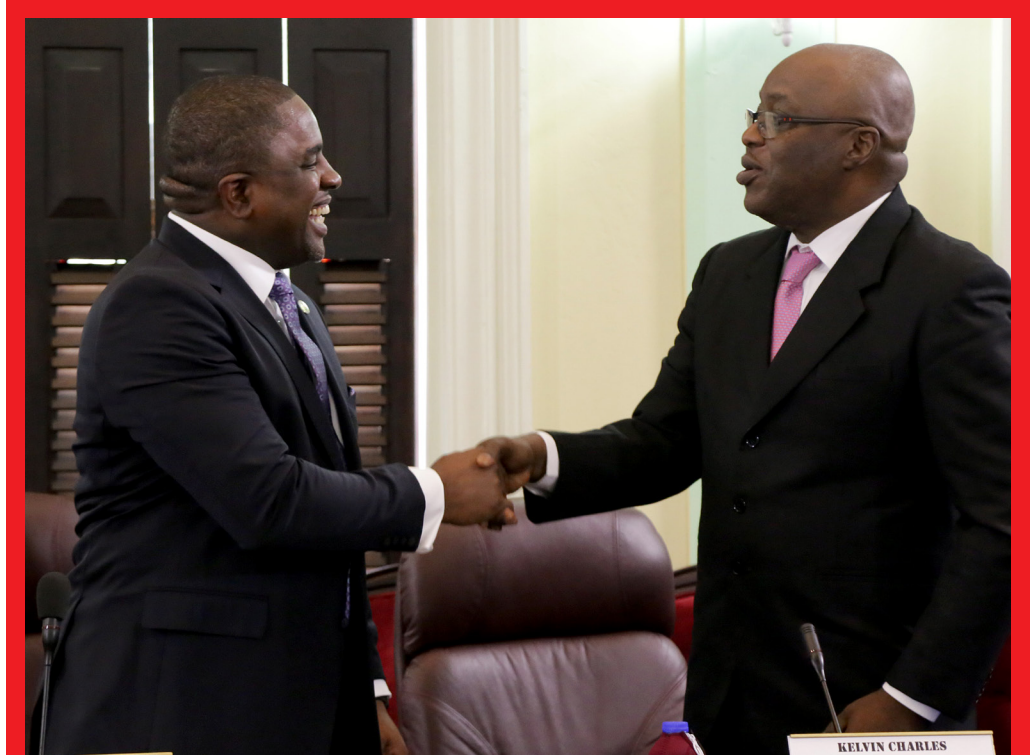
This was revealed in this morning's (June 22, 2017) 2018 Tobago House of Assembly Budget Statement, delivered by Secretary of Finance and the Economy Joel Jack, who is also Deputy Chief Secretary.

The figure comprises proposed recurrent expenditure of \$3.2 billion and \$1.71 billion in development expenditure, and represents a decrease of roughly \$352 million from last year's request.

The major development projects highlighted in the presentation include phase III of the Fort King George Heritage Park project, at a cost of \$6.1 million; the upgrade of Sanctuary Resort (\$50M) and Manta Lodge (\$8.3M); infrastructural work at Pigeon Point (\$9.1M); and construction of cruise ship berths (\$2M).

Other major projects include: the Agricultural Access Roads Programme (\$80M); development of an Agro-Park at Friendship Estate (\$10M); improvement of beaches and landing facilities (\$10 million); improvement of the Northside Road (\$12.5M) and improvements to primary schools (\$26.7M).

Work is also earmarked for Tobago's



**BUDGET TALK:** Secretary of Finance and the Economy Joel Jack, left, is congratulated by Chief Secretary Kelvin Charles after delivering Tobago's 2018 Budget Statement at the Assembly Chamber this morning (June 22, 2017). The budget debate will begin on Tuesday (June 27, 2017).

special needs schools, the Happy Haven School (\$10M) and the School for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired (\$10.5M).

There is a request for URP (\$77.2M) and the Community Environmental Protection and Enhancement Programme (\$54M).

Jack also reported "offbudget" expenditure

items, including the construction of the new terminal at the ANR Robinson International Airport, the construction of the Old Grange and Roxborough Police Stations, construction of a desalination plant at the Cove Eco-Industrial and Business Park (CEIBP); and the expansion of the power generation plant at Cove.

## CHARLES: GIVING BACK A PRIORITY

Giving back should be done as an act of love.

That principle is very important to the Tobago House of Assembly THA Chief Secretary Kelvin Charles said on Sunday (June 18).

He was speaking at the Chief Secretary Golf Tournament Prize Giving ceremony

at the Magdalena Grand and Beach Resort.

"The Chief Secretary Golf Classic is not one designed to gain political mileage but rather one designed to demonstrate positively, overtly and in a very tangible way a duty of care to those in our communities who are less fortunate,"

Charles said, adding that charity is an essential part of community and national life.

The Chief Secretary said this ideal is a THA priority, which he hopes will "last for generations". This year is the 15th year the tournament has been hosted in Tobago.