



“To oppose corruption in Government is the highest obligation of patriotism.”

– John W. Gardner

RECENTLY HELD ACTIVITIES

- **14th Annual General Meeting**
- **Civil Society Toolkit Workshops**
- **Plenty Pepper! Town Hall Meetings**

New Board Members

Former diplomat and Head of the Public Service Reginald Dumas was the feature speaker on July 25th when Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute held its 14th Annual General Meeting at the Hotel Normandie. In attendance were individual and corporate members, members of the diplomatic corps as well as representatives of state agencies, international organizations and the media.

Attorney at Law, Rishi Dass, Academic Director at the Arthur Lok Jack

Graduate School of Business, Dr Kamla Mungal and Jason Stedman, Creative Director at The Buzz Ltd were nominated and elected to fill vacancies created following the resignations of Frederick Du Coudray, Gerard Pemberton and Annette des Iles.

They join other Transparency's Board Members: Deryck Murray (Chair), Dion Abdool (Vice-Chair), Susan Gordon (Secretary), Ronald Ramcharan (Treasurer), Dr Michael Alleyne, Josh Drayton, and Lorraine Rostant.



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TI's Annual Membership Meeting Focuses on 'No Impunity' in 20th Year

Transparency International hosted its Annual Membership Meeting (AMM) in Berlin, 7 - 11 November, 2013 and Trinidad & Tobago was represented by Deryck Murray, Chairman.

Prior to the main plenary sessions, there was the Regional (Americas) Meeting which explored ways in which the Chapters of Latin America and the Caribbean could work more closely, and how to minimise the language differences. We all shared some of our experiences over the past year, particularly our new programmes and/or successes. It was important for the Chapters of the region to interact and recognize the many similarities in forms of corruption which characterise us, and the possibilities for concerted actions which we could jointly pursue.

The Plenary sessions included the reports of the various committees and working groups with specific emphasis on the theme of "No Impunity". The Movement has committed to focus on this in the immediate future to ensure that those who are guilty of acts of corruption actually do face the consequences.

There were also a number of break-out workshops which enabled wider consideration of specific topics. Deryck was a panelist on the Corruption in Sport workshop which served as a prelude to the forthcoming 2014 Global Corruption Report: Sport.



Taking a united stand against Corruption: flanking Deryck Murray, Transparency's Chair at the Transparency International Membership Meeting in Berlin are Huguelle Labelle, Chairman of Transparency International and Peter Eigan, co-founder.

The Plenary of 8 November was devoted to the celebration of the 20th Anniversary of TI, and it was made more special by the presence of Peter Eigan and many of the other co-founders of the movement. It was inspirational to hear them speak of the conditions and corruption of the day which motivated them to start the Organisation.

While we are all only too aware of the abundance of corruption which surrounds us at present, we were reminded of the great progress which we are making in developing tools and mechanisms to combat corruption. The Corruption Perceptions Index, the growing number of Bribery Acts, the Global Corruption Reports, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and TI's Integrity Pact are highly respected instruments of the anti-corruption arsenal.

The Closing Dinner was another celebration of the 20th Anniversary as well as a wonderful display of international bonding of all the Chapters and members in a show of solidarity around a common cause. It was a renewal of the motivation and inspiration to face the challenges ahead.

Recent Transparency Public Procurement Reform Activities

At last, after serious work began at least eleven years ago, new public procurement legislation to replace the fifty-year-old Central Tenders Board Act is about to be laid in Parliament. However TTTI and the private sector organisations that have been working together from the beginning to see this day are very unhappy with the Bill that Government is currently proposing. They feel that it simply does not address the real issues and is very poorly put together.

The Private Sector/Civil Society Group (PSCSG) has recently sent its comments to the committee that is reviewing the Bill prior to its being laid in Parliament. These underline the essential elements that must be included if the Bill is to help in any way ensure that public money is spent in

the public interest rather than largely wasted or stolen. The Group is urging either a thorough re-drafting of the Bill or, better still, its replacement by a draft that has been prepared by the Group that includes all the missing elements and more.

The way forward for the PSCSG depends on what the Government does next. In any event, the Group is looking forward to being at the forefront of serious public debate on whatever is laid in Parliament.

Much of the work of the PSCSG is documented under 'Public Policy' at the JCC's website: www.jcc.org.tt. The full text of the PSCSG Draft Bill is available at http://www.jcc.org.tt/procurement/20101221_comments.pdf.

2013 – A Year to Remember

On 8th November, 2013 Transparency International celebrated its 20th Anniversary and, in this relatively short period, the entity has earned a reputation as the international voice of anti-corruption. The Organisation has blossomed from a handful of members to the global coalition of over 100 National Chapters fighting the scourge of corruption and has won the respect of the international community for its objectivity and steadfast commitment to the promotion of strong moral values and principles.

Trinidad & Tobago can boast of being one of the earliest Chapters (Trinidad & Tobago Transparency Institute) to join the movement during which time we have developed a manual for the

guidance of civil society organisations (CSO) namely the CSO Toolkit, we helped to promote the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) and we are about to launch an Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC). We continue to advocate for new Procurement Legislation and for the regulation of Political Party and Election Campaign Funding and we continue to work with other civil society organisations to strengthen the relevant national institutions.

It is opportune to use this period around UN Anti-Corruption Day (9 December) to reflect on the achievements of the past year but, more importantly, to renew our commitment to achieve our vision of "a country and a region free of corruption".

Best wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas and a productive 2014.

Farewell to Andrea Chambers-Wilson

It is with mixed feelings that we bid farewell to Andrea Chambers-Wilson. Andrea joined the staff of Transparency in early 2013 as Programme Manager and immediately began to display her competence and enthusiasm. She was a great asset and so we are sorry to see her leave. However, we can only be pleased for her to have the opportunity of a position at the United Nations in New York which also sits well with her personal circumstances.

We offer our thanks to Andrea for her most valuable contribution and extend best wishes for success in all her future endeavours.

Deryck Murray
Chairman

We Launch the Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre

Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute, in compliance with best practices of its parent body, Transparency International, has established an Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC), which launches on 2nd December.

This specialist Legal Aid Centre is located at the offices of Transparency and staffed in part by students of the Hugh Wooding Law School. The ALAC model - first established in 2003 - is now fully operational in 51 different countries worldwide. The purpose of these Centres is to empower victims of and witnesses to acts of corruption, through the provision of legal advice and assistance, in navigating the process by which redress can be sought.

'We' not 'They'

Former diplomat and founding member of Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute, Reginald Dumas, told the 14th AGM that a duty of citizenship implies 'we' not 'they' and that our society appears to have moved away from considerations of ethics, civilized behaviour and common sense. Read on for selected excerpts.

The Culture of Compartmentalisation

To me there is something worse than corruption, as we normally define it. That thing, ladies and gentlemen, is the emergence and strengthening of a culture of compartmentalisation. On the one hand, we concentrate a laser-like attention on ourselves and our personal interests. On the other hand, we expand our deficit of action on what could be beneficial to the society of which we are an integral part, by which we are daily affected, and about which we profess ourselves so gravely concerned...

We cannot reasonably complain about a fall in societal standards while we wallow in self-absorption. We cannot reasonably blame others while hypocritically highlighting the rights we say we have and simultaneously neglecting the responsibilities we pretend not to have. It is not a question of "What are they doing?" but of "What are we doing?"



Reginald Dumas addressing Transparency's AGM



Dion Abdool - Vice-Chairman,
Deryck Murray - Chairman,
Reginald Dumas and Board Member -
Lorraine Rostant

No Laws Broken

A Permanent Secretary who is presumably also the Ministry's Accounting Officer, accepts an expenses-paid trip from her Minister and insists she has broken no law in so doing...The Chairman of an independent Commission meets at home and in private with a senior political figure. No law is broken, but the perception of unethical conduct, particularly in an agitated environment, is dismissed as immaterial...

A member of a Commission of Inquiry inflates his C.V. But he has broken no law. He remains, and is allowed to remain, a member of the Commission. Concerns expressed are immaterial...It seems to me that our descent has accelerated, accompanied by a coarsening of the society and a flight from the norms of civilized behaviour.

Clear and Present Danger

Dumas cited several measures which could be implemented to stem our country's apparent downward slide; he was not overly optimistic about the timeliness or effectiveness of some of these.

We speak now about public sector procurement reform, but it looks as if, honeyed assurances notwithstanding, every effort is being made at high political levels to block it, or allow it in a virtually toothless form. It runs a clear and present danger of being gummed, if not to death, certainly to moribundity.

We speak of campaign finance reform, which I am told is one of the promises of the current administration. We forget that more than 11 years ago...this very organization, Transparency, held an international conference on "Political Party Funding and Regulation."

He suggested strengthening of the Auditor General's Department and of Parliamentary oversight; an enforced Code of Ethics for Ministers and their Special Advisers; financial services regulation; the introduction of the concept of participatory budgeting as is used in Brazil, Africa, Asia, Europe and parts of the United States; a reintroduction of civics and the addition of values education in the primary school curriculum.

Mr Dumas concluded with the reminder that a society is guided not only by adherence to the law, but by its traditions, values and respect for institutions.



(L-R) Mark Regis, CEO of TTEITI, Minister of Energy, the Honourable Kevin Ramnarine, TTEITI Chair, Victor Hart and Administrator, Riaz Ali

TTEITI Releases First Report

Trinidad and Tobago's Extractive Industries Transparency initiative released its first report on September 30th at a launch event presided over by Minister of Energy, the Honourable Kevin Ramnarine.

The report provides a detailed account of more than 50% of Trinidad & Tobago's total government fiscal revenue that originates from the extraction of its natural resources. It disclosed that the Government received a total of US\$3.6 billion in payments from oil and gas companies of which 5.4% represented corporate tax. The country's oil and gas revenues came primarily from the BP Group,

BG Group, EOG Group, Repsol and BHP Billiton as well as from the two state owned oil companies, Petrotrin and the National Gas Company. It identifies a number of areas in which further improvements must be made to strengthen the management of the extractive industries sector. These include auditing practices, automation of government systems, more complex production figures and clearer categorisation of payments.

In presenting the Minister of Energy with a copy of this first report, TTEITI Chairman Victor Hart referred to it as "a huge step forward in government accountability to citizens of Trinidad and Tobago".

Reaching Out to Transparency's Youth

Are you a young person under the age of 35? Are you willing to step forward and let your voice be heard? Would you join a team of your peers and make a tangible contribution to the eradication of corruption in our society? Then become a Transparency Youth Member today.

Find out how you can become involved as a Youth Member,

email admin@transparency.org.tt. Application forms are available online at www.transparency.org.tt. Download and mail in or drop yours off today.

Remember – 'we' not 'they! Be a part of the solution for just \$100 per calendar year.

Coming soon! Youth Forum – November 2013



Young T & T National Takes Second in TI's 20th Anniversary Youth Writing Competition

Trinidad & Tobago-born Keisha Baisden, 24, a board certified music therapist, copped second place in Transparency International's (TI) 2013 Youth Writing Competition – "What Can Young People Do to Stop Corruption?" In celebration of its 20th anniversary, TI concurrently ran a Youth Photo and Youth Writing Competition for young people between 18-30 to further complement its efforts to curtail the abuse of power, bribery and corruption. More than 1400 entries were received. These competitions were organized in partnership with Thomson Reuters Foundation and co-sponsored by the International Anti-Corruption Conference Series.

Keisha is a graduate of the University of Miami and a member of the Sigma Lambda Gamma National Sorority. She owns her own business, Music Inspiring Change, which provides music therapy services to youth and adults from at-risk communities, and for patients receiving end-of-life care. She is an adjunct lecturer at UWI St Augustine and at the University of the Southern Caribbean.

Plenty Pepper Town Hall Meetings

Transparency spiced things up in its 'Plenty Pepper' community Town Hall meetings in Arima, Rio Claro, Mayaro and Tobago. At Arima Keegan Bharath, research assistant at the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business, was the Youth Speaker and Mark Regis, CEO of the Trinidad & Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (TTEITI), delivered the keynote address. The forum, "Protecting the People's Oil and Gas Patrimony", discussed the TTEITI and provided clarity on the benefits of this global initiative to Trinidad & Tobago and an assessment of its potential impact on our democracy.

Medical Physics and Bio Engineering at UWI, St Augustine.

Senator Balgobin lamented the fact that a small open democracy like Trinidad & Tobago's becoming increasingly vulnerable to stress and shear – a fact he attributed to the weakness of our institutions, the continued allegations of corruption which have undermined citizens' trust in the leadership of the country and the fast pace of globalisation. Balgobin added that social inequality fosters anger, which can be a prescription for social instability and chaos.

Independent Senator Rolph Balgobin, who led the Rio Claro forum, spoke on "Corruption as a Source of Social Instability". Youth speaker Nirmal Heeraman is a student of Physics,

Transparency's Mayaro and Tobago meetings featured discourses by Transparency's Chairman Deryck Murray on "Corruption in Sport" and former Chairman Victor Hart on "Is Corruption Getting Worse?"



Josh Drayton facilitates CSO Toolkit Workshop at the Hotel Normandie

Civil Society Toolkit Workshops

Transparency continued its Civil Society education programme when it conducted four workshops under the theme "Building Capacity Among Civil Society Organizations Using the Civil Society Toolkit".

Port of Spain. A total of 105 participants attended, representing a varied cross section of Civil Society Groups.

Board member Josh Drayton and two Transparency staff members facilitated the workshops in Arima, Chaguanas, Point Fortin, Tobago and

These workshops are part of Transparency's drive to educate Trinidad & Tobago CSO's on the principles of maintaining accountability and aligning existing systems with international best practices.

DIRECTORS' DIARY

Here are some of the meetings that filled your directors' agendas over the last three months

AUGUST 2013 ▶▶

8 August - Courtesy call on His Excellency President Anthony Carmona by Deryck Murray, Dion Abdool Susan Gordon and Ronald Ramcharan.

26-28 August - International Labour Organisation- Caribbean Academy for the Management of Employees Organization (CAMEO) Sub Regional workshop entitled Analysing and Shaping the Business Environment to Influence Policy Development where Deryck Murray presented on the 'Cost of Corruption'.

27 August - Rhonda De Freitas of Hugh Wooding Legal Aid clinic met with Vice Chairman Dion Abdool and Programme Manager Andrea Chambers-Wilson to discuss assistance in the establishment of The Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre.

SEPTEMBER 2013 ▶▶

4 September - Transparency was invited by the Ministry of the Attorney General to participate in a peer review of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), the periodic review of a State Party's implementation of the provisions of the UNCAC. Transparency was represented by Ms Susan Gordon.

10 September - Deryck Murray, Dion Abdool, Susan Gordon and Andrea Chambers-Wilson all met with the Director of Public Prosecutions to discuss the establishment of ALAC and possible collaboration.

16 September - Meeting with UNDP and OAS attended by Deryck Murray, Dion Abdool and Susan Gordon where Transparency discussed its plans for ALAC, its thoughts on Political Party Funding reform and the upcoming Anti-Corruption Conference 2014.

25 September - Chairman, Deryck Murray and Vice Chairman, Dion Abdool met with the Canadian High Commission at which Transparency discussed its current programmes as well as plans for the upcoming Anti-Corruption Conference 2014. Meeting with British High Commission where Transparency discussed current programmes as well as plans for the upcoming Anti-Corruption Conference 2014. Attended by Deryck Murray, Dion Abdool and Susan Gordon.

OCTOBER 2013 ▶▶

9 October - Transparency was invited by the European Union to participate in a stakeholder consultation headed by the Ministry of Planning and Social Development at the Capital Plaza Hotel. Andrea Chambers-Wilson represented Transparency at the meeting.

9 October - Deryck Murray met with Kristen Farrell and Keith Gilges of the US Embassy to exchange views on the local political climate in Trinidad and Tobago and on Transparency's priorities.

10 October - Dion Abdool attended a meeting at the Chamber of Commerce on the Development of a Corporate Governance Code for Trinidad and Tobago.

October and ongoing - Meetings with the Canadian High Commission, OAS, UNDP and the Elections and Boundaries Commission to discuss a proposed symposium to highlight Political Party Funding Reform. Deryck Murray, Lorraine Rostant and Transparency's Project Officer Anika St. Louis attended.



Passages - William Latchman

(January 3, 1948 –
September 4, 2013)

William Latchman was an avid social activist and Chairman of Vision on Mission, an organization dedicated to the rehabilitation of former prisoners and deportees, since its inception in 1995. He was an active member of the Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute since March 2010.

A broadcaster for more than two decades, he worked at TTT for some 18 years, managing various aspects of the Engineering, Technical Operations, Training and Security Departments. He attended the Caribbean Union College, now the University of the Southern Caribbean and George Brown College in Toronto, Canada where he specialized in Broadcast Engineering.

Mr Latchman served as Public Relations Officer and Vice-President of the Downtown Owners and Merchants (DOMA) for several years and contributed significantly to its development as a business organization.

Transparency in the Local News

Corruption Getting Worse?

published on Thursday 5th September in the Newsday Business Magazine. Check it out at: <http://www.newsday.co.tt/businessday/0,183226.html>

We thank Victor Hart for contributing this article.

Anti-Corruption Measures: Helping Everyone to Profit?

Published on Wednesday 25 September 2013 in the Express Business Magazine. Find it on <http://trinidadexpress.com/business-magazine/Anti-Corruption-Measures--Helping-everyone-to-Profit-225133642.html>

Thank you Jason Stedman for your contribution.

Governments have often employed a knee-jerk reaction to suspected corruption by setting up commissions of enquiry to placate public demands for action. However, that remedy has been mainly cosmetic and has borne little fruit... The application of real, as compared to cosmetic, remedies to reduce corruption must begin with the political will to take actions that will make a difference. Civil society must recognise that it is the people's patrimony and their children's inheritance that is squandered and become better mobilised to fight corruption and hold wrongdoers accountable..

Excerpt from the article "Corruption Getting Worse?"

Anti-corruption measures are often viewed in terms of punishing transgressors or putting obstacles in the path of those who seek to circumvent the law. However, if we only think of anti-corruption measures as having the sole purpose of negating or mitigating the negative, we are only seeing part of their benefit. Transparency, accountability and other such anti-corruption tenets are fuel that drive positive change. For wherever corruption ends, a better society begins.

Excerpt from the article "Anti-Corruption Measures: Helping Everyone to Profit?"



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Transparency Features Frequently in Anti-Corruption Week Events

2 December 2013 - p.m.: Launch of the Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre

3 December 2013 - a.m.: Launch of Corruption Perceptions Index - Media and CSO/NGO briefing at Transparency's Office

p.m.: Fundraising Dinner, Joseph's Restaurant - Feature Address by Jean-Pierre Kingsley

4 December 2013 - All day: Registration & Funding of Political Parties - A Symposium

5 December 2013 - p.m.: Making Sense of T&T's Energy Dollars - a Free Public Forum of the TTEIT

9 December 2013 - p.m.: Celebrating UN Anti-Corruption Day in Woodford Square with Cecelia Salazar as Gene Miles in Ms. Miles

Thank you for reading and do share this Newsletter with any persons who you think may be interested in learning about our fight against corruption. They may not be on our mailing list!