

## **REPORT ON ACTIVITIES FOR PERIOD JUNE 2012 - JULY 2013**

(Prepared for the 14<sup>th</sup> AGM held on the 25<sup>th</sup> of July, 2013)

### **1. Introduction**

This report outlines the activities of the Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (Transparency), the national chapter of Transparency International (TI), undertaken in the twelve-month period between the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meetings of the Institute.

These activities were carried out following, for the most part strategic decisions set in the Strategic Frameworks 2010-2012 and 2010-2013 in the fulfilment of Transparency's vision of 'a world in which government, politics, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption' and mission to work towards "a country and region that are free of corruption".

### **2. Promoting Public Sector Integrity**

Corruption in the public sector can have disastrous consequences on the entire society. Nepotism, bribery, kickbacks and wanton wastage of public funds undermine citizens' trust and can even destroy a society's institutions. During the period under review, two of our main areas of concentration have been on ensuring integrity in the process of public procurement and in accounting for revenues derived from the energy sector.

#### **2.1 Public Procurement Reform Committee**

Transparency continues to advocate strongly for the introduction of a new legal and regulatory framework by which all procuring agencies will be governed. Transparency believes that this will represent the first step in the journey towards reducing the incidences of public sector corruption in our society.

The Private Sector/Civil Society Group Committee established by the Joint Consultative Council (JCC) in 2010 and which includes a representative of Transparency (Boyd Reid) continued to meet with key stake holders to advance the discussion on the draft legislation. Extensive recommendations have been submitted to the Joint Select Committee of Parliament on Procurement. Following a meeting on May 7 2013 with the Minister of Finance, the Committee was advised that it should continue to interface going forward with the Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development. In addition, the Committee was informed that once the final draft has been prepared, there will be a window of one week in which to provide comments and make recommendations to the Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development.

The JCC Committee is persevering in its efforts but is concerned over the slow rate of progress being made in bringing the draft legislation before the Parliament. The committee is also concerned that the Bill must be placed in the public domain for comment prior to being taken before the House of Representatives

#### **2.2 Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI)**

The Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) is a coalition of governments, companies, civil society groups, investors and international organisations formed to encourage transparency and accountability in the exploitation of minerals and other extracted resources ([www.eiti.org](http://www.eiti.org)). It was founded, in part, as a result of TI's lobby

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with other civil society organisations and other groups to reverse the situation where many countries rich in natural resources are among the world's poorest. Transparency has been the leading advocate in Trinidad and Tobago of membership of the EITI.

On 7 June 2013, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on the implementation of the EITI in Trinidad and Tobago was signed by eighteen of the country's major oil and gas producing companies, eight CSO's including Transparency and Senator the Honourable Kevin Ramnarine, Minister of Energy and Energy Affairs on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. By this MOU, all signatories agree to provide their receipt and payment data to a mutually agreed upon accounting firm to be independently reconciled in accordance with the EITI's international standard.

The Chairman of the EITI Steering Committee is Victor Hart, a former chairman of Transparency, while the representative on the Steering Committee is Debbie Mohammed.

### **3. Civil Society Strengthening**

In 2010, Transparency collaborated with the Commonwealth Foundation to prepare a Civil Society Organization (CSO) Accountability Toolkit aimed at developing principles on accountability and transparency which local CSOs can follow. This was part of a larger project where the Commonwealth Foundation worked with One World Trust to develop similar accountability toolkits for CSOs in Belize, India, Uganda and the Pacific Islands.

The CSO Toolkit was officially launched at the Arthur Lok Jack Graduate School of Business on 18 July 2012. Over 70 guests attended, including members of the diplomatic corps, the Tobago House of Assembly Chief Administrator, Civil Society members and Government officials.

Between June – December 2012, three CSO Toolkit sensitization workshops were conducted in South Trinidad (June 2, Paria Suites Hotel), Tobago (June 13, Works Division Conference Room) and Central Trinidad (October 12, Cara Suites Hotel). These workshops were well attended, feedback was extremely positive and there were several requests for additional training workshops.

In March 2013, with funding from the Canadian Foundation, Transparency conducted six training programmes for CSOs in Port of Spain, San Fernando and Tobago aimed at facilitating the use of the Toolkit and educating participants on how best to align their systems and procedures with international best practices. A total of one hundred and nineteen participants attended. In addition, three capacity building workshops on Grant Writing, Fund Raising and Fund Development and Introduction to Human Resource Management for Non-Profits were facilitated by resource personnel from Veni Apwonn at TTTI's offices on March 18, 19 and 20.

Two additional sensitization workshops were conducted in Arima and Chaguanas on June 15 and July 17, 2013 and additional programmes have been scheduled through the rest of the year targeting a total of 200 CSOs. It is hoped that this initiative will

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help improve governance in the CSO community, and enable them to become more attractive to international and local donors.

### **4. Anti-Corruption Outreach Activities**

#### **4.1 Anti-Corruption Conference**

Transparency's second annual Anti-Corruption Conference was held at the Hyatt Regency on March 8, 2013. The key note address was delivered on behalf of the Prime Minister, by the Acting Prime Minister, the Honourable Errol McLeod.

The conference attracted a large cross section of corporate entities, representatives of Government agencies and international organizations, members of the diplomatic corps as well as a number of Transparency's members and the media.

Among the issues discussed were: Integrity, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Measures in the Protective Services, Corruption in Sport, Regulating Political Party Funding and Building Business Integrity. Our list of international presenters this year were Susan Cote-Freeman, Programme Manager, Private Sector Initiatives, Transparency International (TI); Deputy Chairman of Transparency International and former advisor to the Council of Europe's Multidisciplinary Group on Corruption, Bertrand de Speville; Professor Trevor Munroe, Executive Director of the NIA (the Jamaica Chapter of TI in formation) and Gerardo Berthin, Policy Advisor on Governance at the UNDP's Regional Service Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Mr. de Speville, who serves as an advisor to governments and international organizations on anti-corruption policy and practice, spoke at length during his presentation on what he perceived as deficiencies in the existing Integrity in Public Life Act (IPLA) which have rendered the Integrity Commission less effective than it otherwise could be as an investigative agency. Both Professor Munroe and Mr. Berthin presented on the subject of Political Party Funding, while Susan Cote-Freeman delivered a very compelling address on the urgent need to institute measures to counteract corrupt business practices, particularly in developing countries.

Director of the Police Complaints Authority, Ms. Gillian Lucky facilitated a panel discussion with Professor Ramesh Deosaran and Senator Elton Prescott (S.C.) on "Integrity, Ethics and Anti-Corruption Measures in the Protective Services." The day's proceedings closed with a second panel discussion chaired by Transparency's Chairman, Mr. Deryck Murray on the subject of Corruption in Sport-Youth Development and Integrity which included presentations by Bertrand de Speville and Douglas Camacho.

This event was funded by JB Fernandes Memorial Trust, the British High Commission and Republic Bank. Other supporters and contributors included the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago, the High Commission of Canada, Raymond and Pierre Ltd, Rostant Advertising, WASA, Aviation Business Limited, Caribbean Airlines, Ernst and Young, First Citizens Bank, Petrotrin, Visual Art and Cargo Consolidators Agency Limited.

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Preparations for the next Anti-Corruption conference, scheduled for March 2014, will begin shortly and assistance from members will be welcome in the coordination of this event.

### **4.2 International Anti-Corruption Day**

Transparency joined with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to mark International Anti-Corruption Day on 9 December, 2012. The themes of ACD 2012 were Time to Wake Up - Act Against Corruption Today. The principal objective was to highlight the positive difference that one person can make by taking a principled stand against acts of corruption. The ACD event was held at the Trincity Mall and featured monologues and skits by popular comedienne Deborah Maillard "Philo" interacting with members of the public and disseminating information on Transparency and its objectives.

The Time to Wake Up campaign which was created by TI to mobilize and empower citizens to stigmatize corruption as a social and political ill which compromises human rights was launched locally as part of the ACD activities. The Time to Wake Up campaign featured a series of posters which highlighted the impact of corruption on the lives of ordinary citizens and on economic and social development in general.

A new children's brochure was also launched as part of the ACD 2012 programme of activities.

This event was supported by Guardian General.

### **4.3 Release of 2012 Corruption Perception Index (CPI)**

The release of TI's Corruption Perception Index is a major event on the annual news calendar in Trinidad and Tobago. It attracts the attention not only of media houses but also of the Government, political analysts and business entities, and the wider public. Transparency launched the CCPI index at a media briefing on 5 December, 2012 at the Professional Centre, Woodbrook, Port of Spain.

The CPI is an index which measures perceptions of public sector corruption. It is a survey of a number of reputable surveys undertaken by international institutions in which countries are numerically ranked based on perceptions of public sector corruption held by business leaders and other analysts.

The 2012 CPI ranked Trinidad and Tobago in position 80 out of 176 countries with a score of 39 out of 100 where 0 represents "most corrupt" and 100, "cleanest."

The day's event included a press conference followed by interviews and commentary from the media.

### **4.4 Collaboration with Republic Bank – Power to Make a Difference**

Transparency received a grant under the Republic Bank Power to Make a Difference initiative for the purpose of promoting three anti-corruption activities targeted towards youth.

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Pursuant to discussions between Board Member Dr. Michael Alleyne and Tony Hall the author of *Miss Miles - Woman of the world*, Mr. Hall wrote a version of the play specifically for Sixth Form students.

On 17 May, 2013 with collaboration and support from the Curriculum Division of the Ministry of Education, the play was staged at the Learning Resource Centre, UWI, St. Augustine before an audience of 200 secondary school children from 11 schools across the country, including Tobago. The play featuring Cecilia Salazar was produced by Trevor Jadunath and directed by Tony Hall. This initiative was piloted by Board members Michael Alleyne and Susan Gordon.

Funding has also been approved for an essay and a poster competition for young people between the ages of 13-25, and these will be launched in the coming academic year.

### **5. International Meetings**

#### **5.1 Annual Membership Meeting**

Transparency's Chairman Deryck Murray travelled to Brasilia in November 2012 to attend TI's Annual Meeting of Members (AMM) and the 15<sup>th</sup> International Anti-Corruption Conference (IACC) which ran consecutively from 5-6 and 7-11 November 2012.

Transparency delegates from over 200 countries attended the AMM while 140 countries were represented at the IACC. Deliberations at the AMM centred around the need for governments to honour their commitments under the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) and to facilitate the work of civil society in their anti-corruption activities.

The IACC, using the slogan "don't let them get away with it", focused on the common challenge of "impunity" and the consequences to the fabric of a society and to the rule of law if impunity is allowed to go unpunished.

The cost of attendance at this event was funded by TI.

#### **5.2 Global ALAC Speak UP! Conference**

Transparency was represented at TI's Global ALAC (Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre) Speak UP! Conference held in Berlin, Germany from 24-27 March, 2013 by Vice-Chairman Dion Abdool.

ALACs are "screening houses" to which citizens who have been the victims of corruption may direct their complaints and from which they can receive legal advice in their efforts to seek redress. Arising from this meeting, TTTI's Vice Chairman has initiated a series of meetings with key stakeholders including the Fraud Squad, the Police Complaints Authority, the Financial Intelligence Unit, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Anti Corruption Bureau to discuss possibilities for collaboration in establishing the first ALAC in Trinidad and Tobago.

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TTTI is also receiving support from the Hugh Wooding Law School Legal Aid Clinic which will be supplying two attorneys on a part time basis to assist with moving this project forward. It is anticipated that the ALAC will become operational by the end of this year.

### **5.3 TI Americas Regional Meeting**

Transparency Trinidad and Tobago was represented by Director Josh Drayton at the Transparency International Meeting of the Americas held in Hotel Las Americas, Cartagena, Colombia from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2013, where pertinent issues in the anti-corruption movement within the Americas (North, Central, South and the Caribbean) were discussed aligned to achieving the following objectives:

- Motivate progress on the “No Impunity” global initiative and provide support to participants to identify areas in which they would like to be actively involved.
- Reflect on the challenges, opportunities and relevance of activities and strategies currently being employed by National Chapters to reduce corruption in their respective national contexts.
- Make progress on collective work in on-going key areas for the region.
- Enrich and/ or motivate a debate among participants on different topics as highlighted by participants (private sector, financial integrity, policies on conflict of interest and others)

### **5.4 Caribbean Outreach**

Transparency continues to seek opportunities to encourage the development of the Transparency movement throughout the Caribbean.

The Chairman was interviewed on Jamaica radio on a few occasions to promote the anti-corruption message on behalf of the Jamaica Chapter (NAIL); and he was the feature speaker at the inaugural Fund Raising Dinner of the Guyana Chapter in November 2012. Prior to the Dinner, Mr. Murray met with the Board of TI-Guyana to share experiences and offer continuing support to that embryonic chapter.

In July 2013, the Chairman was invited to be a part of a TI delegation to Curacao to present the National Integrity Systems Report and to encourage the various civil society organisations in Curacao to coordinate their activities and strengthen their “anti corruption” efforts.

### **5.5 Meeting with TI Guyana**

Board member, Lorraine Rostant met with Mr. Anand Goolsaran, Vice Chairman of TI Guyana on 9 February, 2013. Discussions centred around some of the challenges being faced by that organization particularly in attracting membership both general and to the Board. TI Guyana will contribute articles to Transparency’s weekly newspaper series.

### **5.6 Regional Consultation for the Americas**

The Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC) in collaboration with the Commonwealth Foundation hosted a two-day multi stakeholder Regional Consultation for the Americas in Castries, Saint Lucia on 16-17 April, 2013. Eleven countries across the region were in attendance. Transparency was represented by Programme Manager, Andrea Chambers—Wilson.

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The consultation was intended to inform the development of the Commonwealth Foundation's CSO Engagement Strategy. Over the two day period, discussions were held in an effort to: assess the state of participatory governance in the region; identify regional priorities for strengthening CSO capacity to engage in participatory governance processes and assess priorities for Millennium Development Goals (MDG) acceleration.

### **6. Collaboration with Government Agencies and CSOs**

Throughout the year, Transparency has met regularly with the Government. Following our first meeting with the Prime Minister and a number of other Ministers, the Prime Minister designated the leader of Government Business (Roodal Moonilal) as our designated contact and we have met with him on several occasions and covered various topics including Section 34, Procurement Legislation, the proposed "Constituency Fund", and the Corruption Perception Index. We were also accorded a courtesy visit for some of our International Speakers participating in our Anti-Corruption Conference

We also held meetings with the Leader of the Opposition, the President of the Caribbean Court of Justice, the Integrity Commission, the Police Service Commission, the Police Complaints Authority and the Financial Intelligence Unit.

Transparency has also sought to strengthen our relationship with various civil society organisations. We initiated a meeting with the Chamber of Commerce, the JCC, the Law Commission, Fixin' T&T, FITUN, and AmCham to discuss Section 34, and we continue to meet with these and other groups on matters of mutual interest.

We were part of a wider group that collaborated together to establish an independent review of the Report into the San Fernando - Point Fortin Highway

### **7. Outreach Activities**

#### **7.1 Town Hall Meetings**

On April 30, 2013 Transparency launched its Town Hall meeting series entitled *Plenty Pepper!* at the St. Mary's College Centenary Hall in Port of Spain. This is a six meeting series, each of which features two engaging talks - a youth speaker and a key note address - on corruption related issues at different venues around the country

These Town Hall Meetings are being conducted as part of our community outreach effort to inform, sensitize and engage citizens on the need to step forward in the fight against corruption. Town Hall meetings have already been held in San Fernando and Rio Claro and additional events are scheduled for Arima, Point Fortin and Tobago. Feature speakers have included journalist and media consultant Sunity Maharaj who spoke at the inaugural event on the subject of Political Party Funding, Board Member, Ronald Ramcharan who presented on Accounting for Public Funds and Senator Rolph Balgobin who addressed the Rio Claro event on Corruption as a source of Social Instability.

#### **7.2 Newspaper Article Series**

During the period under review, Transparency has continued to engage the public by treating with issues relating to corruption, transparency, ethics and integrity in its ongoing series of articles in the three daily newspapers.

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### **8. Secretariat**

#### **8.1 Grants and Donations**

Transparency's strategy of obtaining funding to carry out projects continued in 2012. Our main source of funding is the JB Fernandes Memorial Trust which enabled us to continue our capacity building activities and community outreach programmes. Funding from the Canadian High Commission allowed us to successfully deliver six Civil Society Accountability Toolkit workshops. Financial support was also received from the German Embassy to facilitate Transparency's attendance at the ALAC conference.

The Bermudez Group provided a donation of \$60,000 to assist in meeting the expenses of the Secretariat.

#### **8.2 Staffing**

Transparency engaged two new full time members in February 2013. Mrs. Andrea Chambers-Wilson was hired as the Programme Manager, and Ms. Anika St. Louis as the new Project Officer. The engagement of the additional staff has helped considerably with increased programme delivery. Transparency acknowledges the contribution of Zatopek Solutions Inc in that they conducted the entire recruitment process (in their capacity as HR Consultants).

#### **8.3 Membership Subscriptions**

During the period under review, there were 24 new individual members. Membership subscriptions amounted to \$108,600.

#### **8.4 Board of Directors**

The Board elected at the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM on 24 May 2012 comprised Deryck Murray (Chair), Dion Abdool (Vice Chair), Frederick du Coudray, Michael Alleyne, Annette des Iles, Susan Gordon, Ronald Ramcharan, Josh Drayton, Bliss Seepersad and Prabha Siewrattan. The Board appointed Frederick du Coudray as Secretary and Prabha Siewrattan as Treasurer. Subsequently work demands led both to resign these positions - Ms. Siewrattan also resigned from the Board - and in November 2012 Ronald Ramcharan was appointed Treasurer and in early 2013 Susan Gordon Secretary.

At a Special General Meeting held on 27 August, 2012 Lorraine Rostant and Gerard Pemberton were elected to the Board of Directors.

On June 28, 2013, Messrs. Pemberton and de Coudray resigned from the Board.

During the year, the Board held 19 meetings with an average attendance of 7 Directors per meeting.

### **9. Conclusion**

Transparency continues to enjoy the respect of a wide cross section of the national community that looks forward with great interest to our contribution on various issues. We maintain a solid working relationship with the Government and we have

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consolidated and strengthened our relationship with other Civil Society Organizations.

Our additional human resource capacity has enabled us to increase the level of our programme delivery particularly in the case of CSO Toolkit workshops and the community outreach meetings.

There is more than sufficient activity on the national agenda which offers an organization such as ours the opportunity to make a significant contribution. In this context, Transparency needs greater involvement and commitment from a wide range of its members in order to develop positions, programmes and initiatives surrounding the myriad of matters confronting our society. With such support, we are confident that the organization will continue to represent a force for positive change in Trinidad and Tobago.