



A National Chapter of
Transparency International
the global coalition against corruption

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES FOR PERIOD NOVEMBER 2018 – DECEMBER 2019

(Prepared for the 20th AGM to be held on the 19th December, 2019)

1. Introduction

This report outlines the activities of Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI), the national chapter of Transparency International (TI), between its Nineteenth and Twentieth Annual General Meetings. The Board of Directors focused its activities on the Institute's Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020 titled "**Mandate of Hope**". Notably, many activities were accomplished while others are in progress. The Strategic Plan stands on three pillars: **People & Partners, Prevention, Enforcement & Justice** and **Strong Movement**. All of which are designed to contribute to our Mission: *To stop corruption and promote transparency, accountability and integrity at all levels and across all sectors of our society.*

2. People and Partners

TTTI seeks to adopt sustainable and systemic approaches in all its actions. This includes building a reliable and active network of people and partners. In order to achieve this, the Institute conducted activities to demand transparency and good governance and worked closely with all stakeholders. Over the last year, TTTI continued to partner with government, business and civil society in different projects.

2.1 Civil Society Strengthening

TTTI partners with Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) of Trinidad and Tobago in the fight against corruption. Accordingly, TTTI works with CSOs as partners and has a keen interest in continuing this relationship.

2.1.2 Training of CSOs

TTTI in collaboration with Atlantic LNG Company of Trinidad and Tobago (Atlantic) continued the Good Governance and Accountability Programme. On November 22, 2019 TTTI facilitated a one-day training workshop for the Board of Directors and Executive members of a Civil Society Organisation. The purpose of the training was to enhance the capacity of the Directors and Executive members, to better understand their role and function as well as to equip them with Good Governance and Accountability tools.

The training addressed Ethical leadership highlighting the principles and key qualities necessary for an ethical leader. A module on board governance, board composition, responsibilities of the board and its sub-committees as well as the Not For Profit Legislation and NPO Requirements and organizational development were also presented. A session on organizational development and strategic planning was also held.

2.1.3 Ethics in the Workplace

TTTI was once again invited by the office of the On-the-Job-Training (OJT) Trainee Development Programme to deliver a presentation on Ethics in the Workplace. Vice-Chair, Martin Farrell delivered the presentation on January 15, 2019, which was warmly embraced by the trainees.

2.1.4 TT CSO for Business Conference: Building Capacity in Civil Society Organizations in Trinidad and Tobago

TTTI participated in a capacity building programme funded by the European Union and hosted by the Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business, Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers Association and the Energy Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago.



A National Chapter of
Transparency International
the global coalition against corruption

2.1.5 Connected Commonwealth

TTTI was asked to participate in the 'Connected Commonwealth' event hosted by the British High Commission on April 17, 2019. The event was held to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the signing of the London Declaration, which formed the modern Commonwealth.

In presenting, Programme Officer, Kernika Charles highlighted the work and current projects of TTTI including the School Integrity Club Project and our recently launched Business Integrity Country Integrity (BICA) Report. TTTI looks forward to future collaborations with the British High Commission.

2.1.6 Sustainable Development Goals Stakeholder Engagement Consultation

The Ministry of Planning and Development, invited TTTI to participate in a stakeholder consultation for the development of Trinidad and Tobago's first Voluntary National Review (VNR) on implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). TTTI met with the Ministry's Consultant on December 13, 2019 and discussions surrounded TTTI's role in achieving the SDGs.

2.1.7 Sustainable Development Goals Catalysts Network (SDGsCN)

TTTI, as a member of the SDGs Catalysts Network, participated in the 8th Quarterly meeting of the Network on September 27. The meeting focused on actions for the upcoming Voluntary National Review (VNR) on SDG implementation since the Government of Trinidad & Tobago will be presenting to the UN in July 2020. Items discussed included: CANARI's launch of the Caribbean Civil Society SDGs Knowledge Platform, which is available for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to showcase stories or post information relating to the role and

experience in implementing or advocating around the SDGs. Vice-Chair, Martin Farrell represented TTTI at this meeting.

2.1.8 Annual IDB Group-Caribbean Civil Society Meeting

The Inter-American Development Bank invited TTTI to its IX Annual IDB Group-Caribbean Civil Society Meeting "*Citizen Engagement for Transparency*" on the 11th and 12th November 2019, Bridgetown, Barbados. Director, Ariane Moonsie represented TTTI at this meeting.

Day 1 of the two-day event consisted of a *Roundtable on Access to Information and Transparency with Caribbean Experts*. The session focused on a review of the current policy, its access, use, functionality and our experience with access to IDB projects and initiatives. All discussions and comments were collected for use in the continuous improvement of the access to information policy, dissemination of information on IDB activities, projects, initiatives, and recommendations to ensure the success of public consultations in the Caribbean.

Day 2 consisted of a series of panel discussions on strengthening transparency, reducing corruption in the Caribbean, access to information, the user of public resources through citizen engagement, media and citizen participation, and a look at the future. These were very informative sessions, where panelists shared live examples based on their experience and best practice. Director, Ariane Moonsie represented TTTI at this meeting.

2.2 Transparency and the Youth

TTTI has continued to develop youth integrity in Trinidad and Tobago, which is based on the belief that education and outreach are essential for creating a corruption free society for the nation's youth.

2.2.2 School Integrity Club Project

On December 17, 2018 and March 30, 2019 the Integrity Club Steering Committee held training sessions for the Integrity Ambassadors and I-Champion teachers at St. George's College. At the



A National Chapter of
Transparency International
the global coalition against corruption

December 17, workshop the Ambassadors reported on the successes and challenges of developing the Integrity Club in their school. There was also further leadership and communication training for the Ambassadors as moving forward, there will be greater emphasis on "Students leading Students" to help create the culture of integrity in the classroom.

The final training on March 30, the integrity ambassadors was provided with the tools to address a range of issues including bullying, theft, anger management, conflicts and sexual promiscuity. Over the period, the integrity ambassadors have also led a series of activities in their schools. For example in Hillview College the ambassadors hosted a series of group discussions on the Benefits of Integrity and Disadvantages of Corruption. Over one hundred and forty (140) students participated in this activity. And at Speyside High School Tobago the students positioned an 'Integrity Friendship Wall' where all the students from the school were invited to write messages to others or words of integrity. Teachers also used this to restore torn student relationships.

TTTI also launched an essay competition as part of its commemoration of the UN International Anti-Corruption Day, 2018. Opened only to the students from the seven pilot schools involved in the School Integrity Club Project, students were asked to compose essays on 'how Integrity Clubs can help eradicate corruption in Trinidad and Tobago.'

The winners are:

First place - Leanna Rajkumar - St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando

Second place - Sai Saidu – Hillview College

Third place - Jenissi Charleau - St. Joseph's Convent, San Fernando

The other finalists are Deysha Carr, Jordanne Steele, Kereisha Farrell and Cheyenne Roberts.

Prizes were distributed at the Anti-Corruption Conference and on June 25, TTTI hosted a prize giving ceremony, for the students who were unable to collect their prizes at the Conference.

TTTI was also asked to nominate two of our Integrity Ambassadors to become members of United Nations Population Fund, Youth Advisory Group (YAG). Our nominees Shane John and



A National Chapter of
Transparency International
the global coalition against corruption

Stephen John, sixth form students of Queen's Royal College, were selected to join the Youth Advisory Group. The position is valid for two (2) years.

TTTI is working on completing an Integrity Club Toolkit which will be presented to the Ministry of Education.

2.3 Collaboration with Government Agencies and Courtesy Calls

As TTTI understands corruption can touch all areas of society, the Institute has continued to collaborate and partner not only with other CSOs but also with government and business representatives.

2.3.2 TTTI meets with the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago

Following complaints received at our Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC), Chair and Legal Officer, met with the President of the Law Association, and other senior members of the Law Association's Disciplinary Committee on September 20th. Matters pertaining to ALAC were discussed and both parties agreed to collaborate in future initiatives.

2.3.3 Visit by UK Government Communication Service International

Chair, Dion Abdool and Director, Jason Stedman were invited by the British High Commission to meet with Emily Poyser, Deputy Director and Victoria Meskell, Head of Strategic Communications of the UK Government Communication Service International (GCSI) on October 17, 2019. The GCSI is a UK based organisation which works to support the good governance of public institutions. The GCSI visited T&T to conduct a scoping exercise with some stakeholders. Matters of mutual interest involving challenges in addressing corruption were discussed at the meeting.

2.3.3 Ministry of Communications: Stakeholder Consultation re: Data Protection Act (2011)

TTTI participated in a Ministry of Communication, Stakeholder Consultation Re: Data Protection Act (2011) on November 4, 2019. The workshop was a fact finding and information gathering exercise, whereby users and those who interface with the Data Protection Act provided information concerning the issues and challenges (real or perceived) so that the International Telecommunications Union would be able to engage consultants on possible amendments to the said legislation. Legal Officer, Bernadine Henry, represented TTTI at this workshop.

2.3.4 Meeting with the Organization of American States

The Organization of American States (OAS) invited TTTI to participate in a review process on March 2, 2019 as part of the Mutual Evaluation Mechanism (MESICIC) under the Inter-American Convention Against Corruption. Adopting a comprehensive approach, the Convention envisages measures for the prevention, detection, investigation, and punishment of acts of corruption as well as for the recovery of corruption proceeds. TTTI was represented by the Chair and Programme Officer.

Discussions surrounded the status of anti-corruption legislation and some of the anti-corruption commitments by the Government and recommendations to improve same.

2.3.5 Legal, Fiscal and Funding Framework

TTTI Chair, is a member of the Legal, Fiscal and Funding Framework Working Group, which is led by United Way Trinidad and Tobago. The Working Group is responsible for taking forward three main recommendations:

1. The development of new legislation to govern the non -profit sector
2. Engagement of key stakeholder groups and the public at critical points in the drafting of the new legislation

3. Work with the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago on the evaluation of key Government programmes currently in place to support funding for CSOs.

2.3.6 NPO Registration Pilot Project

Legal Officer, Bernadine Henry attended the NPO Pilot Online Registration Workshop on September 26. The workshop entailed:

- an overview of what's happening in the Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) Sector in Trinidad and Tobago;
- a look at United Way Trinidad and Tobago's Pilot Online Registration (TTTEITI's example) and
- a complete analysis and guidance to NPO's on how to complete the Questionnaire to assist in developing a risk based approach issued by the Ministry of Legal Affairs.

2.3.7 Council for Responsible Political Behaviour

TTTI as one of the founding members of the Council for Responsible Political Behaviour (Council) signed the revised Code of Ethical Political Conduct (Code) on September 16, 2019. Two major changes include:

- The Code sees the Council as a body comprising solely of independent members (representatives of the Political Parties are excluded); however now the Council together with the representatives of each Political Party form the Code keepers which also meets regularly; and
- The Code seeks to make it easier for there to be televised Leaders Debates and widen the potential choice of "Debates Commissions".

For your information, click the links below to view the Council's media release:

1. [Guardian Newspaper](#) – September 15, 2019

2. [Newsday Newspaper](#) – September 16, 2019

At this time the Chair represents TTTI's interest on the Council.

2.3.8 Caribbean Corporate Governance Conference 2019

TTTI participated in the Caribbean Corporate Governance Conference hosted by Aegis Business Solutions Limited on 30 October 2019. This session highlighted that without good governance practices within an organisation there will be such disasters as in the cases of Enron and locally as with the CLICO's collapse.

An informative session on Leading with Hope, emphasized that leaders should not come across as just micromanagers but should empower, connect, encourage, motivate and advocate on behalf of their Teams.

3. Prevention, Enforcement and Justice

Prevention, Enforcement and Justice is the second pillar of TTTI's Strategic Plan 2017-2020. It aims at the strengthening of anti-corruption laws, standards, policies, etc. and at pushing for public and private institutions to implement the highest transparency, accountability and integrity standards to promote good governance. TTTI's approach to this pillar is twofold: It promotes prevention of corruption and enforcement of anti-corruption standards and demands justice to end impunity.

3.1 Operationalisation of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Property Act and its full enactment

Through the medium of the Public Sector and Civil Society Group (PSCSG), of which TTTI is a founding and active member through its Secretary, the Institute has continued to strive to ensure Integrity, Accountability and Transparency in the public procurement process.

The Procurement Regulator was the Feature Speaker at TTTI's Special General Meeting on 17 September 2019. Under the topic Unveiling the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act 2015 Mr Lalchan informed of progress made by the Board as follows:

- the OPR had completed 95% of its recruitment exercise and would be at a full 100% by October 2019
- the Draft Regulations, proposed amendments to the Act and a list of sections of the Act to be proclaimed which are not dependent on the Regulations were sent to the Minister of Finance and the OPR was currently working with the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel to finalise these for Cabinet approval
- development of the database solution was scheduled to be completed in October 2019. This comprehensive database on public procurement is to contain information on tenders received and the award and value of contracts.
- final versions of the Handbooks and Guidelines would be completed by the end of September 2019
- on November 23, 2018 members of the OPR's Board and staff had appeared before the Parliamentary Joint Select Committee on Finance and Legal Affairs. Additional requested information was submitted on 4 January, 20 March 20, 10 April and 1 May 1, 2019.

It may be recalled that in his 13 May 2019 presentation of the 2019 Mid-Year Budget Review the Minister of Finance had advised that “barring unforeseen circumstances, further proclamation of important Sections of the Act could be achieved by August 2019.”

The Act at this time, remains to be operationalized and the countdown clock launched on TTTI's website on October 10, 2019, is a means of focusing attention on this and other outstanding vital legislative measures as General Elections approach.

3.1.2. NPO and "Unexplained Wealth" Bills

TTTI represented by the Chair is a member of the Legal and Fiscal Working Group (LFWG) and CSOs for Good Governance group and represented by the Chair contributed to the Unexplained Wealth Bill and held discussions with the Attorney General and his team. TTTI expressed support of the Bill as an anti-corruption initiative subject to (in general) non infringement of and respect of constitutional rights, due process which can stand scrutiny. Concern was expressed (in particular) with respect to use of ex parte applications, use of civil burden of proof and reversal of the party who bears it.

3.1.3 Amendments to the Freedom of Information Act

TTTI in collaboration with other CSOs responded to the Government's proposed amendments to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) under Clause 7 of The Miscellaneous Insurance, Central Bank and Non-Profit Organisations) Bill, 2019. Discussions on this matter continues.

3.2 Trinidad and Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (TTEITI)

Trinidad and Tobago joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) on 1 March 2011 and gained Compliant Country status, the highest level of membership, on 23 January 2015.

EITI implementation in Trinidad and Tobago is overseen by a Cabinet appointed Multi-Stakeholder Group Steering Committee (MSGSC) launched on 8 December 2010 comprising six government members, six extractive companies members, six civil society members and an independent chair-person. TTTI was among the first civil society members appointed and has since been playing a key role on the MSGSC.

During the period in review, the TTEITI in collaboration with the TTTI was able to acquire grant funding from the European Union and the US Embassy respectively, for two major year-long



A National Chapter of
Transparency International
the global coalition against corruption

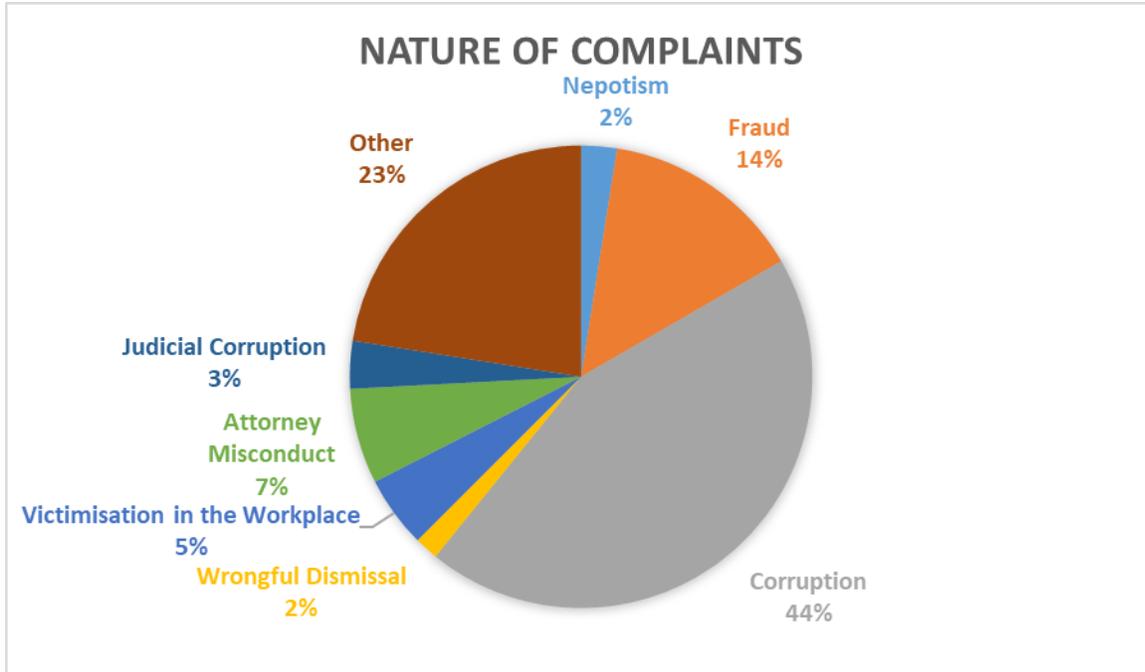
projects, namely a national sensitization campaign on beneficial ownership disclosure in T&T and a US Embassy funded project on improving fiscal management and accountability in T&T, both projects are aimed at expanding transparency and accountability in the extractive sectors so as to reduce corruption and increase the public's awareness regarding the management of the country's natural resources. Both projects are scheduled to be concluded in 2020.

The TTTI through its membership of the TTEITI's MSGSC, has continued to effectively support the TTEITI's oversight role in EITI implementation nationally by assisting with the release of its sixth EITI Report covering fiscal 2017 themed: Water More Than Flour? Navigating through Uncertain Times (www.tteiti.org.tt). The audited data in the published report has shown minimum discrepancies between revenues paid to companies to government and government's declared receipts.

3.3 Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC)

The Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) provides an avenue for victims and witnesses of corruption ("clients") to obtain redress by providing free legal advice and assistance. This is accomplished through partnerships with the Hugh Wooding Law School (HWLS) and various anti-corruption agencies and institutions. Through its partnership with HWLS, TTTI has established a specialist legal aid clinic whereby legal interns can gain experience in identifying issues, solutions and legal weaknesses related to corruption. ALAC gathers analytical data on corruption which will assist in future legal reform. Since the milestone achievement of launching the ALAC in December 2013, TTTI has continued to fortify the operations of this institution.

Since its launch in 2013, the Advocacy and Legal Clinic has assisted approximately 121 clients with diverse complaints of the following nature:



3.5 Business Integrity Country Agenda (BICA)

The Business Integrity Country Agenda (BICA) Report was launched at TTTI's Anti-Corruption Conference 2019. The report is Trinidad and Tobago's first comprehensive analysis of contributions from all stakeholders on transparency, integrity and accountability in the corporate sector. BICA is an initiative developed by Transparency International (TI) with a view to reducing corruption in the business environment.

In June 2019, a meeting was held to develop the findings/recommendations from the BICA report into concrete strategies and operational actions for change. At the meeting, the BICA Action Plan was finalised and members of the National Advisory Group (NAG), chaired by Director, Dr. Kamla Mungal identified issues/areas that they will champion. A follow up meeting was also held on December 3rd, where the BICA action plan was updated and and Action Plan with activities for 2020 was finalised.

3.6 Investigative Journalism Award - Update

On March 2, 2019, TTTI met with representatives from the Media Association of Trinidad and Tobago (MATT) to discuss the establishment of an investigative journalism award as well as ways in which investigative journalists can assist TTTI's Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC). Discussions with MATT continue in an effort to bring fruition to this initiative.

4. Strong Movement

In order to have an impact TTTI needs to take the lead and create a Strong Movement. Thus, it is committed to building expertise and tenacity within the anti-corruption movement in Trinidad and Tobago and the wider region. That entails knowledge sharing and leading by example as well as enhancing the Institute's strategic presence so as to ensure the relevance of the movement in strategic locations and situations.

4.1 Gender and corruption

Acción Ciudadana (Transparency International Guatemala) invited TTTI to Guatemala City - September 24 - 26, 2019 to participate in a workshop entitled Strategies for Anti-Corruption Programming with a Gender Approach. This event marked an important milestone in TI's and TTTI's roadmap towards strengthening its focus on gender and corruption. At the workshop, presentations were made on the analysis of gender related themes based on the results obtained from the recently published Global Corruption report (GCB) for Latin America and the Caribbean. Brainstorming sessions were also held on developing and integrating gender relating projects at both national and regional levels. Programme Officer, Kernika Charles, represented TTTI at this workshop.



A National Chapter of
Transparency International
the global coalition against corruption

4.2 TTTI makes a case for transparency in land matters at Caribbean Land Conference 2019

TTTI is part of a core committee made up of civil society, academia, individuals and companies working through the International Land Coalition (ILC) towards the ultimate goal of improving access to and transparency of land information, in order to improve the quality of life of persons impacted by inequality in land rights.

Director, Jason Stedman on May 8, 2019 presented at a National Stakeholder Workshop hosted by the ILC and on October 11, 2019 he also presented at the Caribbean Land Conference 2019 entitled "Surveying Best Practices towards the sustainable development of Caribbean Small Island Developing States" on at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre. The theme of his presentation was "The Case for Transparency in Land Administration". Mr. Stedman was also part of a panel discussion on Land policy in the Caribbean with the Caribbean Network of Urban Land Management (CNULM).

TTTI remains hopeful that this partnership will assist in efforts to eradicate land corruption in Trinidad and Tobago.

4.3 UN Anti-Corruption Day

TTTI has continued to observe International Anti-Corruption Day (ACD), December 9 as an opportunity to attract public attention to issues of corruption and in commemoration of ACD 2019 TTTI issued a press release and social media campaign. The release called for among other things the enactment of Campaign Financing Legislation and full implementation of Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act.

Building a stronger, corruption free Trinidad and Tobago

Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI) joins the world in observing International Anti-Corruption Day on December 9, 2019. Anti-Corruption Day provides an opportunity



A National Chapter of
Transparency International
the global coalition against corruption

for citizens to reflect on the shattering impact corruption has on the most vulnerable in society. Corruption is defined by Transparency International (TI) as ‘the abuse of entrusted power for private gain.’ Corruption intensifies poverty, violates human rights, undermines our democracy, causes environmental damage, is a barrier to economic development and has long been a tool of organised crime. According to the Chair of TI, Delia Ferreira Rubio, *“Corruption is much more likely to flourish where democratic foundations are weak.”*

TTTI, the national chapter of Transparency International, works for “a world in which government, politics, business, civil society and the daily lives of people are free of corruption”. TTTI as an NGO has been seeking to fulfil its mandate through advocacy and public education on matters of anti-corruption and 2019 marks TTTI’s 21st anniversary in leading the fight against corruption in Trinidad and Tobago.

Some of TTTI’s key activities include:

- Launch of the Corruption Perceptions Index each year
- Operating Integrity Clubs in secondary schools
- Advocating for reform and proclamation of key anti-corruption legislation
- Hosting an Annual Anti-Corruption Conference on relevant topics
- Consultations with civil society organisations utilising our Civil Society Toolkit
- Operating our Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) which provides free legal advice to witnesses and victims of corruption
- Lobbying for transparency and accountability in the collection of energy sector revenues as a member of the Trinidad and Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (TTEITI)

In December 2018, TTTI launched the Business Integrity Country Agenda (BICA) Report, with a view to reducing corruption in the business environment. The BICA report was collated from extensive research, including interviews and data analysis from all stakeholders and captains of the business industry. The report provides a reference point for collective action involving

government, the business sector and civil society, in a concerted effort to promote business integrity in Trinidad and Tobago.

TTTI urges all stakeholders to join in the effort to ensure the following actions are achieved in a timely manner and advocates through its BICA Report for the:

- Amendment of The Prevention of Corruption Act 1987 to cover commercial bribery and bribery of foreign officials by the end of 2020.
- Proclamation and enforcement of Whistleblowing legislation by the end of 2020. This long outstanding piece of legislation will provide much needed support and encouragement to victims and witnesses of corrupt activity.
- Enactment of Campaign Finance Legislation and ensuring full implementation of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act by end of 2019. With General elections on the horizon, TTTI has added **countdown clocks** to the website to keep these two matters on the radar.
- Proclamation of the entire Fair Trading Act 2006 which would empower the Fair Trading Commission.
- Strengthening of sanctions against the breach of accounting and auditing standards in order to deter non-compliance.
- Relocation of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to a space large enough to accommodate a full complement of staff.
- Expansion of the power of the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) to improve its investigative capability in cases of alleged police misconduct.
- Equipping of the Auditor General's office with more accounting and auditing staff to audit the institutions that fall under its remit.
- Examining and addressing the resource constraints of the Office of the DPP, the Financial Investigations Bureau (FIB), the Fraud Squad and the Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau (ACIB).

- Instituting stricter penalties for accounting and auditing discrepancies in the public sector. These penalties should be fines proportionate to the discrepancy and not simply the suspension, transfer or dismissal of the perpetrator.
- Introducing measures for the prevention of fraud in state enterprises.

TTTI acknowledges that while the Parliament has made efforts in enacting anti-corruption legislation such as the passage of the Civil Asset Recovery and Management and Unexplained Wealth Bill, 2019, as well as the removal of the Anti-corruption Investigations Bureau (ACIB) from under the purview of the Ministry of the Attorney General to the Commissioner of Police, more has to be done.

TTTI also notes the recent analysis of country evaluations issued by the global anti-money laundering regulator, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which highlighted Trinidad and Tobago as the only country who fully complies with the FATF requirements for governments to ensure that authorities can quickly find out who the real or 'beneficial' owners of companies registered in their territory are. Additionally, TTTI encourages the government to take tangible steps to achieve active/compliant status under the Open Government Partnership (OGP). As this country has been listed as "inactive in the OGP due to acting contrary to OGP process for three consecutive years."

TTTI remains devoted to seeking ways to reduce, if not eliminate corruption from Trinidad and Tobago. Countering corruption requires cooperation from all Parliament officials, sectors/organizations and every citizen of Trinidad and Tobago. We invite individuals and organizations to join us in the fight against corruption. Together we can make the difference in building a stronger, more equitable society, through greater transparency, accountability and freedom from corruption.

4.5 Anti-Corruption Conference 2019 (ACC 2019)

TTTI once again hosted a successful Anti-Corruption Conference (ACC) on Thursday, March 21, 2019, at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre. Delivering an outstanding and well



A National Chapter of
Transparency International
the global coalition against corruption

received keynote address was Rueben Lifuka, Vice-Chair, Transparency International. Mr. Lifuka helped participants face the reality as he stated that ‘Due to impunity, the corrupt have lost all manner of fear for public resources and property, the corrupt does not fear the consequences of the law – because through their corrupt deeds, they can circumvent all authorities including the courts of law. It is this culture of impunity that has provided a fertile ground for new forms of corruption – some which violates human rights and threatens peace.’

Apart from TI’s Vice-Chair, Rueben Lifuka we had three (3) other international speakers which includes Dr. Pauline Beange, Professor - University of Toronto addressing Campaign Finance; Dr. Olga Binions - Policy Adviser, UK’s Government Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) speaking on Beneficial Ownership Disclosure and Claudia Sanen – Senior Analyst, Transparency International Brazil addressing Business Integrity in Brazil.

Local speakers included Justice Frank Seepersad who presented on the Renraw Case and implications for campaign financing.

4.6 Launch of TI’s Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2018 – January 29, 2019

TTTI launched the results of the Corruption Perceptions Index on January 29, 2019 at the Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business. This event was well attended by representatives from Diplomatic missions, Civil Society Organisations, Members of the Legal profession, Religious bodies, Regional Corporations, public and private sector, members of the press and the public, all of whom were keen to learn how Trinidad and Tobago fared in this international report which ranks countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, with 0 being highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. T&T received a score of 41 out of 100 in the 2018 CPI, similar to the score of 2017 and has fallen in the rankings by one spot from 77th to 78th out of 180 countries.

Speaking at the launch, Mr Moonilal Lalchan - Chairman/ Procurement Regulator the Office of Procurement Regulation said that “One doesn’t bribe oneself. One has to be bribed. It therefore

means that the private sector businesses, small and large, also have a role to play in ensuring they deal honestly when offering their goods and services to governments and other public bodies.” Mr Lalchan also assured that “as the country’s first procurement regulator, it is my honour to not only stand, but to pledge my allegiance with TTTI in its mission to “stop corruption and promote transparency, accountability and integrity at all levels and across all sectors of our society.”

4.7 Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) – Latin America & Caribbean

On September 23, 2019 Transparency International (TI) released the GCB survey results for Latin America & Caribbean. The GCB is the largest, most detailed survey of citizens’ views on corruption and their experiences of bribery in Caribbean and Latin American. Between January and March 2019, the GCB surveyed more than 17,000 citizens in 18 countries across the region. The survey results highlighted that corruption flourishes around elections. Based on the survey, one in four persons were offered a bribe in exchange for votes at national, regional or local elections in the past five years. Additionally, corruption is a major concern for citizens; as 85 per cent of those surveyed believe government corruption is “a big problem”.

TTTI issued a press release with the survey results and called on the Parliament to proclaim and enact outstanding anti-corruption legislation.

4.8 Special General Meeting (SGM)

TTTI hosted its Special General Meeting on September 19, where Mr. Moonilal Lalchan, Procurement Regulator and Chairman of the Board of Procurement Regulation, delivered an engaging and informative feature address. Entitled Unveiling the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act 2015 the presentation can be viewed here. The Office of the Procurement Regulator (OPR) outlined the status of implementation of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act 2015. It was noted that full proclamation is still awaited and TTTI again reiterated its call for same.

4.9 Application for Charitable Status

Pursuant to the matter of TTTI obtaining Charitable Status for tax purposes and by letter dated May 11th 2019, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance informed TTTI that its application for Charitable Status was denied. No reason (s) were provided and as such, TTTI is considering available redress.

4.10 Transparency International's Annual Membership Meeting (AMM) 2019

The AMM meeting took place in Berlin from 15-17 November and TTTI was represented by Chair. Over 100 chapters were represented and participated in discussions leading to the AMM. Day one focused on the work of the chapters with emphasis on two Global priorities i.e. Dirty money and Political Integrity. The role of our youth as a driving force for change was widely agreed on as members recognise that today's youth are the future leaders in the ongoing fight against corruption. Discussions on day two centred on topics such as gender and corruption, whistleblower protection and cyber security. On Sunday 17th November, the last day of the meeting, TTTI was recognized as Mr Abdool was given the opportunity to supervise TI's AMM elections at which three (3) new Directors were elected.

4.11 Americas Regional Meeting

In May, 2019 Transparency International (TI) engaged in a governance review process and as part of Phase II, TTTI participated in The Americas Regional Meeting from May 19 – 21, 2019 in Panama. The meeting was hosted by TI and comprised of thirty-five (35) regional representatives. Over the three days discussions focused on TI's 2030 vision, governance review, regional thematic priorities: Political Integrity and Dirty Money, gender and corruption as well as grand corruption.

Programme Officer, Kernika Charles represented TTTI at the meeting, while the Chair participated in a series of interviews and surveys (Phase 1) from Transparency International.

4.2.1 St. Lucia Employers' Federation AGM

St. Lucia Employers' Federation requested TTTI deliver the keynote address at their 58th Annual General Meeting (AGM) themed 'Professional Ethics & Human Resource Personnel' on August 28, 2019. Director, Dr. Kamla Mungal delivered a well-received presentation at the AGM which was hosted at the Bay Gardens Inn, St. Lucia.

4.2.2 TTTI's membership

TTTI currently has one hundred and ninety-nine (199) Individual members and thirty-two (32) Corporate members.

5. Increase TTTI's influence as the leading anti-corruption CSO

5.1 Online presence

Ms. Aisha Williams is engaged to update our website. In October, 2019, TTTI added two countdown clocks to the website. This was done following reports in the media and other forums that Campaign Finance Legislation and full implementation of Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act will become a reality by the end of 2019. The purpose of the countdown clocks is keep these matters on the radar as important outstanding requirements for the good governance of our country. [Click here](#) to view TTTI's website.

5.2 Press and Media Relations

TTTI has continued to engage the public by treating with issues relating to corruption, transparency, ethics and integrity in the local media.

The following are some of the press releases issued and media coverage for the period under review:



A National Chapter of
Transparency International
the global coalition against corruption

15 February, 2019 - TTTI calls for the removal of the Anti-corruption Investigations Bureau (ACIB) – [\(Click here to view press release\)](#)

5 May, 2019 - Legislation to combat corruption – [\(Click here to view press release\)](#)

24 May, 2019 - Fighting for the 'common good' - [\(Click here to view article\)](#)

24 May 2019 - Massy VP: Create whistle-blower safe space - [\(Click here to view article\)](#)

17 May, 2019 – Corruption – not so petty - [\(Click here to view article\)](#)

10 May, 2019 - Corruption: We like it so? - [\(Click here to view article\)](#)

9 May, 2019 - Why we may finally be winning the fight against corruption – [\(Click here to view article\)](#)

30 July, 2019 - Release the Information – [\(Click here to view press release\)](#)

23 September, 2019 - Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) – Latin America & Caribbean - [\(Click here to view press release\)](#)

6 November, 2019 - Governance in Public Office – [\(Click here to view press release\)](#)

9 December, 2019 - Building a stronger, corruption free Trinidad and Tobago – [Click here to view the press release\)](#)

6. Secretariat

6.1 Grants and Donations

As TTTI strives to fulfil its mandate, assistance is rendered from various entities and individuals. The TI IMPACT grant continues to be our main source of funding and will come to an end on 31

March 2020. The School Integrity Club project was made possible by invaluable contributions from First Citizens, the British High Commission, United WayTT, Dr Marcelle Farrell, Justice Melville Baird and Ms Esther Innis.

TTTI also continues to partner with the TTEITI, and funding received for projects sponsored by international organisations such as the European Union and Embassy of the United States of America aid in our overall activities and overheads.

TTTI wishes to thank all sponsors for their contributions which ensure the fight for good governance and the elimination of corruption.

6.2 Staffing

For the period under review, the staff complement remained as follows:

Cindy Paul-Seecharan - Administrative Officer

Kernika Charles - Programme Officer

Bernadine Henry - Legal Officer

6.3 Board of Directors

Following the Nineteenth Annual General Meeting the Board of Directors remained as follows:

Dion Abdool - Chair

Martin Farrell - Vice Chair

Susan Gordon - Secretary

Melissa Cobham - Treasurer

Fern Narcis-Scope - Director

Ariane Moonsie - Director

Kamla Mungal - Director

Jason Stedman - Director



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7. Conclusion

This year marks TTTI's 21st anniversary in leading the fight against corruption in Trinidad and Tobago. Formed by citizens concerned about the impact of corruption on our country, TTTI continues to fulfil its mandate through advocacy and public education on matters of anti-corruption, transparency and good governance as these principles are the main pillars of a democracy and must be supported and protected at all cost. TTTI continues to enjoy the respect and engagement of a wide cross section of the national community that looks forward with great interest to our contribution on various issues.

Despite challenges, the Institute continues to make an important contribution by developing positions, programmes and initiatives pertinent to combatting corruption forces and is dedicated to seeking ways to reduce corruption and promote good governance in Trinidad and Tobago.