E - News Brief

Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute

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What We Have Been Doing

- **TTTI meets with Joint Select Committees**

On Friday 17th March, TTTI's IMPACT Public Sector Steering Committee members and TTTI Chair, Dion Abdool met with the Chairs and members of the Public Administration and Appropriations Committee (PAAC), the Public Accounts Enterprises Committee (PAEC) and the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).

These committees are chaired by the Honourable Speaker of the House Bridgid Annisette-George, the Honourable Senator Wade Mark and Dr. the Honourable Senator Bhoendradatt Tewarie respectively. A number of issues were discussed including:

1. Strengthening the independence and resources of the Auditor General
2. Making public service structures more innovative and responsive
3. Modernization of the accounting framework - technology, standards, outcomes
4. Inculcating a culture of ethical behaviour
5. Implementing consequences for breaches in regulations etc.

The Joint Select Committees expressed support for the IMPACT Public Sector Steering Committee and TTTI to work with five selected Ministries and Departments on a programme to introduce ethics awareness training and to possibly assist in developing an Ethics policy and manual.

The IMPACT Public Sector Steering Committee is chaired by TTTI Director, Jens-Ulrich Poppen. This committee also includes: Vice-Chair, Martin Farrell; former TTTI Treasurer, Ronald Ramcharan; Treasury Director, Ministry of Finance, Radica Deonanan; Assistant Auditor General, Gaitre Maharaj; TTTI Treasurer, Melissa Cobham; former TTTI Director, Winston Rudder; TTTI Director, Shyanne Telfer; and Management Specialist, Ministry and Public Administration and Communications, John Gillette. The IMPACT Public Sector Steering Committee's final report is in the process of being completed and will be shared with members soon.

Do you have a corruption complaint?

Contact our Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) **T: 626-3797 ▪ E: info@ttalac.org**

MRS. BRIDGID ANNISETTE-GEORGE
CHAIRMAN
MR. WADE MARK
CHAIRMAN

MR. DION ARGOLL
MS. GAITRE MAHARAJ

MR. MARTIN FARRELL

- **Governance Policies**

Over the last seven months, TTTI Directors and staff have been working assiduously on developing key governance policies; viz a Financial Policy and Procedures Manual, Donations Policy, Conflict of Interest Policy, and a Strategic Plan for 2017 – 2020. These polices approved by TTTI's Board are now available on our website.

- **Ethics Committee**

TTTI Board of Directors have appointed for the first time, an Ethics Committee which comprises of foundation members of TTTI, Messrs Reginald Dumas (Chair) and Frank Clarke (Member). Any matter for the attention of the Ethics Committee can be addressed to Mr. Dumas and emailed to admin@transparency.org.tt.

- **Strategic Plan 2017 to 2020**

After several months of discussions, TTTI is pleased to share with members our Strategic Plan for 2017 to 2020. The completion of our Strategic Plan is a significant step forward to better position TTTI to prevent and mitigate the effects of corruption in Trinidad and Tobago. TTTI has aligned its goals to TI's wider campaign to unmask the corrupt and to TI's 2020 strategy: "Together Against Corruption". The strategy is premised on the belief that awareness of corruption has already been established, so the phase now is to aggressively move towards active rejection and prevention of corruption.
The three priority areas and activities which serves as a framework to guide our activities are below:

1.0 PEOPLE AND PARTNERS:

- Develop a Human Rights Network with other CSOs in T&T
- Deliver Annual Survey on 'Corruption in Trinidad and Tobago' (CTT)
- Establish program called "Mandate of Hope" increase the level of ethics and transparency in Gov't Ministries/Departments
- Develop Anti-Corruption Reporting Tool
- Establish Annual Media Award for Investigative and Anti-corruption Reporting
- Lead/Champion formation of Anti-Corruption Bureau

2.0 PREVENTION, ENFORCEMENT AND JUSTICE:

- Attain full operationalization of Public Procurement and Disposal of Property Act
- Get the Whistle Blower Protection Legislation Bill which is before a Joint Select Committee (JSC) of Parliament debated to become the Law Strategy
- Achieve Campaign Finance Reform Legislation by 2020 Strategy
- Address reports of Corruption in Surveying, Land Development and Building Approval and Construction to end it.

3.0 STRONG MOVEMENT:

- Host Annual Anti-Corruption Conference
- Commemorate UN Anti-Corruption Day Strategy
- Host Town hall style Meetings in collaboration with other CSOs Strategy
- Host successful Corruption Perceptions Index Launch Strategy
- Strengthen TTTI's Organizational Structure/ Secretariat Strategy
- Establish Stronger Board / Stronger Governance Systems Strategy
- Increase TTTI's membership and influence as the leading anti-corruption CSO
- Establish Integrity/Character Clubs in primary and secondary schools throughout T&T
- Host Annual Fund-Raising Dinner

Click here to view the Strategic Plan and members are invited to contact the Secretariat via email at admin@transparency.org.tt to get involved in the activities outlined.

♦ Call for the Operationalisation of Procurement legislation

The Public Sector Civil Society Group (PSCSG), held a press conference on Wednesday 12th April, 2017 at the Normandie, at which they called on the Government to move swiftly to operationalise procurement legislation and establish an office of Procurement Regulation. The PSCSG explained that improper procurement practices are linked to a number of challenges facing Trinidad and Tobago and highlighted the current crisis involving the MV Super-Fast Galicia as a result of improper procurement. TTTI is a member of PSCSG and is represented by Secretary, Susan Gordon and Director, Fern Narcis-Scope. Ms. Gordon participated in the Press Conference. Click here to view an Express article on the Press conference.

♦ TTTI visits SITAL College

As part of our outreach programme, in February, TTTI was invited by SITAL College to deliver a presentation to students of the Youth-Career-Navigation Programme (YouCaNPro). TTTI Director - Arianne Moonsie and Programme Officer - Kernika Charles delivered an informative and engaging presentation on topics such as ways in which the youth can assist in fostering a transparent culture, as well as the importance of integrity, transparency and accountability.

♦ Good Governance and Accountability Programme

On February 21, Atlantic LNG Company of Trinidad and Tobago (Atlantic) in collaboration with Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI) commenced our Good Governance and Accountability Programme to train Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) using the Civil Society Accountability Toolkit.

Immediate former Chair, Deryck Murray delivered the keynote address entitled; ***Fair Play: Strengthening Integrity and Transparency in NGOs***, and remarks were delivered by TTTI Chair, Dion Abdool and Camille Salandy, Head, Sustainability and Corporate Communications, Atlantic. This workshop provided an opportunity for all participating groups to meet, share and learn the tools for effective governance.

Over an eight month period, TTTI and Atlantic will schedule one on one sessions with each organisation in order to provide and equip them with the necessary tools and techniques to improve their operations. Over the past month, we have held twelve (12) follow-up sessions with the NGOs. TTTI and the Consultants are also in contact with the groups, providing support as they implement the governance tools.

- **OWTU breakfast workshop**

TTTI was invited by the Oilfields Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) to deliver a presentation entitled: ***Where are we - The TT Economy and the Local Energy Sector***, at their Public Policy Breakfast Forum which was held on March 14, 2017. The objective of the forum was to discuss the fourth Trinidad and Tobago EITI Report which was produced in November 2016. TTTI's Vice-Chair attended the forum and made a well-received presentation. Mr. Martin Farrell represents TTTI on the Trinidad & Tobago Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (TTEITI) Steering Committee.

- **Investigative Reporting and Financial Journalism**

Further to discussions with TI and Caribbean partners, in March, TTTI was invited to Jamaica by the National Integrity Action (TI Jamaica), Transparency International (TI), the Media Institute of the Caribbean and the Association of Caribbean Media Worker; to participate in a three day workshop entitled: ***Investigative Reporting and Financial Journalism for Development***. Programme Officer, Kernika Charles represented TTTI and journalists from around the region including Trinidad and Tobago attended the workshop.

Topics presented included: Ethics and Investigative Journalism Techniques, Using the Law – Access to Information Laws, Integrity Legislation, Ethics and Investigative Journalism Techniques.

- **Anti-Corruption Conference 2017**

A conference committee headed by TTTI's Treasurer, Melissa Cobham is preparing for the Anti-Corruption Conference to be held on September 28th, 2017. Get involved, support the effort, contact the secretariat at 626-5756.

SAVE THE DATE

Anti-corruption Conference
September 28th, 2017

Contact us to get involved!