# Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute

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## What We Have Been Doing

#### ◆ Launch of the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)

On 23rd January 2020, TTTI launched the results of the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2019 at the Arthur Lok Jack Global School of Business. The result, which ranks countries by their perceived levels of public sector corruption, with 0 being highly corrupt and 100 very clean, saw Trinidad and Tobago receiving a score of 40, and now ranks 85 out 180 countries. In unveiling the results, Chair, Dion Abdool noted that research indicates that countries where campaign finance regulations are comprehensive and systematically enforced, have an average score of 70, while countries whose regulations do not exist or are poorly enforced, have an average score of 34. Additionally, 60% of countries which improved their CPI scores also strengthened campaign finance regulations.

In delivering the keynote address entitled: "The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act and its impact on achieving Political Integrity", Chair of the Private Sector Civil Society Group (PSCSG), Mr. Winston Riley lamented on the fact that for over thirty years, he, as well as other like-minded citizens, have been advocating for key anti-corruption legislation such as campaign finance and procurement legislation to be enacted and enforced. He stated that the level of progress achieved in the implementation of The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act is intolerable, particularly after repeated commitments by senior government officials. Mr. Riley's full address can be viewed here and the panel discussion can be viewed here.

#### Media Coverage on the CPI

- ⇒ Newsday Newspaper TT falls seven spots on 2019 Corruption Perception Index
- ⇒ Guardian Media Article T&T position changes on global Corruption Perception Index
- ⇒ CCN TV6 T&T falls on corruption perception index
- ⇒ Trinidad Express calls to halt role of money in politics
- ⇒ Trinidad Express Procurement law should boost corruption perception







onomic and Political Officer; Martin Farrell, TTTI Vice-Chair; rd; Fern Narcis Scope, TTTI Director; Winston Riley, Chairman, I g; Susan N. Gordon, TTTI Secretary; Jason Stedman, TTTI D ford James, Political Analyst and Dion Abdool, TTTI Chair.



### Best Social Investment Project – Energy Chamber Award

On 4th February, 2020, the School Integrity Club Project was honoured to receive the award for Best Social Investment Project (SME) from the Energy

Chamber of Trinidad and Tobago. The awards ceremony was held at the Annual Energy Chamber Conference at the Hyatt Regency Trinidad. This project is championed by TTTI's Vice-Chair, Martin Farrell.

The Integrity Club Project was launched in 2018, by TTTI in collaboration with the Integrity Commission of Trinidad and Tobago and the National Council of Parent-Teacher Associations. According to Chair, Dion Abdool, 'Integrity Clubs are one of the best Programme Officer Kernika investments for our students, schools, homes, proudly receives award from The Energy Chamber communities and, by extension Trinidad and Tobago.



Integrity Clubs have been identified as potential solutions to problems within schools and in the wider society of Trinidad and Tobago. The vision of the Integrity Club project is captured in the slogan: Planting seeds of purpose, compassion, honesty and integrity.



#### Lobbying for procurement legislation

Chair, Dion Abdool, was invited to deliver an address entitled: *Ethical leadership* at the Rotary Club of Maraval fellowship meeting on February 4, 2020. Mr. Abdool highlighted principles of ethical leadership and also took the opportunity to call on members of Parliament to proclaim the *Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act* with-out amend-ments to Sec-tion 7 of the Act. He further noted that once this leg-is-la-tion as well as the long awaited Political Party and Campaign Finance legislation is enacted, Trinidad and Tobago's score on the CPI will improve.





#### Media Coverage

Trinidad and Tobago Guardian - Transparency Institute: Bring procurement legislation now. View <u>here</u>



#### PSCSG on Procurement Legislation

TTTI, as a member of the Private Sector/Civil Society Group (PSCSG), issued a press release on January 21, 2020 reiterating the call for the immediate implementation of procurement legislation. As noted in the press release, it is unacceptable that The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act, 1 of 2015 has reached its current state of functional non- implementation from its conception, spanning three different administrations of government.

The release also stated that the PSCSG stands firm that there should be:

- 1. No amendment(s) to section 7(2) of Act 1 of 2015, The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act. Section 7 with respect to Public Private Partnerships and Government-to-Government transactions is non-negotiable. This was a critical issue in the 2014/2015 Parliament that debated the then Bill and remains so now in the architecture of the Act.
- 2. Proclamation, at a minimum of the following sections immediately for implementation as these sections of the Act do not require proclamation of The Regulations, which continues to be delayed:
  - 13(1)(e)-(m)(o)(q)(s), 14(1), 24, 27, 30(2)(3), 37, 39, 40, 46, 47, 48, 53, 54(2)(3), 59(1), 61(2).
- 3. The implementation of the Act should structure the role of Parliament as the avenue for disclosure and discourse on the further implementation of the Act. This is buttressed by the role of Parliament as the body in the Act that holds the Office of Procurement Regulation accountable.

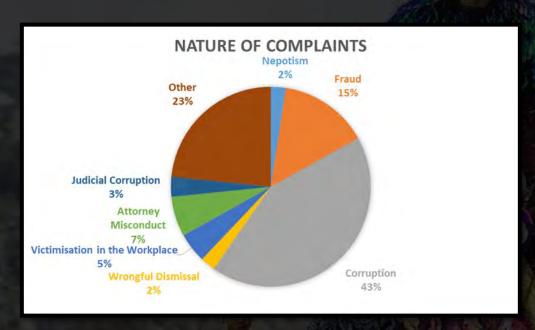
A copy of the press release can be viewed here.



#### Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre

For this period, TTTI welcomed two Legal Interns, Ms. Deborah Thomas and Mr. Suren Ramsingh from the Hugh Wooding Law School (HWLS).

The graph below represents a breakdown of all the complaints ALAC has received since its inception. The various matters have been categorised as follows:



#### ♦ Beneficial Ownership Disclosure in the Extractive Sector

The Trinidad and Tobago Extractive Transparency Industries and TTTI hosted (TTEITI) sensitization workshop on beneficial ownership disclosure at the Works Conference Room, Old Government Farm Road, Shaw Park Tobago on February 6, 2020. The workshop featured engaging and interactive presentations on the benefits of beneficial ownership and politically exposed persons' disclosure citizens, along with how to use the TTEITI's BO Register for the extractive sector to spot check for errors and



discrepancies. This workshop is part of the Beneficial Ownership Sensitization Campaign project which is funded by the Delegation of the European Union to Trinidad and Tobago.

#### Reshaping the Energy Sector through Big Data

TTTI as a member of the TTTEITI Steering Committee attended a workshop hosted by the TTEITI on February 5, 2020 at Hyatt Regency Trinidad. The workshop, Can we Achieve More? Using Data to Drive Change, featured presentations by Gregory McGuire, Chair, TTEITI Steering Committee and Omar Mohammed, CEO, Cropper Foundation.



