



### 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 of 180 countries. In unveiling the results, Chair, Dion Abdoool 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





From left to right – Matthew Ciesielski, US Embassy, Economic and Political Officer; Martin Farrell, TTTI Vice-Chair; Moonilal Lalchan, Procurement Regulator and Chairman of the Procurement Board; Fern Narcis Scope, TTTI Director; Winston Riley, Chairman, Private Sector Civil Society Group; Mariano Browne, Former Minister of Finance; Susan N. Gordon, TTTI Secretary; Jason Stedman, TTTI Director; Dr. Kamla Mungal, TTTI Director, Victor Hart, Former TTTI Chair; Dr. Winford James, Political Analyst and Dion Abdool, TTTI Chair.



**The Americas (snapshot)- 2019**

Rank	Country / Territory	Score (out of 100)
1	Canada	97
2	United States of America	96
3	Bahamas	94
4	Barbados	92
5	St. Vincent & the Grenadines	90
6	Costa Rica	88
7	Dominica	86
8	St. Lucia	85
9	Grenada	83
10	Cuba	82
11	Suriname	81
12	Jamaica	80
13	Trinidad and Tobago	79
14	Guyana	78
15	Dominican Republic	77
16	Haiti	76
17	Venezuela	75



### ♦ 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 investments for our students, schools, homes, communities and, by extension Trinidad and Tobago.



Programme Officer Kernika Charles proudly receives award from The Energy Chamber

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* without amendments to Section 7 of the Act. He further noted that once this legislation 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 [here](#)



### ◆ 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 Industries Transparency Initiative (TTEITI) and TTTI hosted a 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 to 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.



#### ◆ **Stakeholder Consultation Re: Data Protection Act (2011)**

The Ministry of Communication invited TTTI to participate in a workshop entitled: *Stakeholder Consultation Re: Data Protection Act (2011)*. 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.

#### ◆ **National Review on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**

The Ministry of Planning and Development requested TTTI partake in focus group sessions as part of stakeholder consultations, for the development of Trinidad and Tobago's first Voluntary National Review on the implementation of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The United Nation (UN) through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development encourages Member States to "conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels which are country-led and country-driven". These reviews are voluntary and to emphasise ownership and commitment by each country to implement the SDGs. At the focus group sessions, participants were enlightened on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and asked to provide feedback on whether the country was sufficiently attaining the SDGs and offer solutions to ensure that such goals are realised. Legal Officer, Bernadine Henry, attended the sessions on behalf of TTTI.

#### ◆ **The Escazú Agreement matters**

CANARI in collaboration with the Faculty of Law, UWI St. Augustine and the Caribbean Environmental Law Society hosted a public lecture on January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 with the Honourable Justice Winston Anderson, Judge, Caribbean Court of Justice entitled, "*Why the Escazú Agreement matters: Environmental rights, justice and public participation in the Caribbean*". Justice Winston Anderson delivered an enlightening lecture which outlined the Escazú Agreement, its importance especially in light of climate change and the need for public consultation. TTTI was represented by Legal Officer, Bernadine Henry.



### ◆ **Anti-Corruption Day 2019**

Due to funding constraints, TTTI was unable to host an event to mark Anti-Corruption Day 2019. This important day did not go unrecognised however as TTTI observed its significance by placing an advertorial in the daily newspapers which called for, among other things:

- Proclamation and enforcement of Whistleblowing legislation by the end of 2020.
- Enactment of Campaign Finance Legislation
- Full implementation of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act by end of 2019.
- Proclamation of the entire Fair Trading Act 2006 which would empower the Fair Trading Commission.
- Expansion of the power of the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) to improve its investigative capability in cases of alleged police misconduct.
- Introducing measures for the prevention of fraud in state enterprises.

### ***Media Coverage***

Some newspapers articles include the following;

- Trinidad Express - T&T and world mark Anti-Corruption Day. View [here](#)
- Trinidad and Tobago Guardian - TTTI chairman: Corruption likely to flourish where democratic foundations are weak. View [here](#)
- Loop- Transparency Institute calls for action in Anti-Corruption Day message. View [here](#).



### ◆ Annual General Meeting (AGM)

On 19 December 2019, TTTI held its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting at the President's Box, Queen's Park Oval. Mrs Lorelly Pujadas, Auditor General delivered an exceptional keynote address entitled: ***The Role of the Auditor General in combatting Corruption in the public sector.*** Mrs Pujadas's full address can be [viewed here](#).

Elections were also held at the AGM which saw the re-election of Dion Abdool as Chair and Martin Farrell as Vice-Chair. Other members of the Board are: Susan Gordon, Ariane Moonsie, Dr Kamla Mungal, Fern Narcis- Scope, Jason Stedman and Donna Jack-Hill (Accountant - ACCA) and Reynold Cooper (Chartered Accountant by profession and former Head of the Public Service).

### *Media Coverage – AGM 2019*

Trinidad Express: Proclaim Procurement law now – Can be viewed [here](#)

Guardian Media Article - '[Ball in Imbert's court](#)'

