



MEDIA RELEASE

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T&T CHAMBER STANDS FIRM ON NEED FOR ZERO TOLERANCE ON ANY FORM OF CORRUPTION

The T&T Chamber is firm on its stance for strict enforcement of the law and maintains zero tolerance for any form of corruption.

In fact, we have been fearlessly advocating for the enactment, proclamation and enforcement of legislation to address issues related to procurement, freedom of information, campaign finance reform and whistleblower protection.

Unfortunately, some of these areas have continuously been deferred or inadequately addressed by various administrations.

We believe that if these safeguards are implemented it would limit opportunities for parties to engage in activities such as bribery since an environment of openness and accountability will prevail across all sectors.

Feedback from the International Chamber of Commerce is that in some markets efforts are made by the public sector to reduce the ease of doing business in an effort to encourage the payment of bribes. It is important to note that over the years Trinidad and Tobago has consistently scored low on the ease of doing business index and high on the corruption index.

The reality is the country's development ultimately suffers. Public sector corruption adds substantially to the costs of public goods and services, contributes to the misallocation of public resources, weakens policymaking and diminishes public confidence. Similarly, private corruption distorts markets, prevents a fair and efficient private sector, thereby increasing costs and reduces the quality of products and services available to the population.

Tackling corruption requires a sense of collective responsibility and we therefore encourage any individual who is asked to pay a bribe or who is offered a bribe to report it immediately to the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service so that the necessary action can take place.

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FROM THE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT