



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Media Release

The Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs welcomes the 2017 Corruption Perception Index (CPI) Score of 41 released by Transparency International on February 21, 2018. Trinidad and Tobago was first assessed in 2001 when 91 countries were evaluated. Since that time the assessment criteria have been refined and become more rigorous, while the number of countries ranked has increased with 180 having been assessed in 2017. This score is the highest received by Trinidad and Tobago since the CPI introduced its current scoring system in 2012, with a country's score indicating the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale of 0 to 100. This index is the most widely used indicator of corruption for assessed countries and is relied on by many international assessment bodies in their evaluation of Trinidad and Tobago. Our score was drawn from 6 out of 13 data sources from 12 independent institutions specializing in governance and business climate analysis and is based upon data that was collated over the twenty-four (24) month period 2016-2017.

The data sources capture the assessment of the public sector and looks at mechanisms available to prevent corruption in a jurisdiction. Trinidad and Tobago's score affirms the positive effects of the work done by Government since assuming office at the end of 2015. This stands in stark contrast with the 2016 rating of 35, which would have been significantly influenced by data from 2015.

The Government's policy initiatives, legislative agenda and operational focus have been driven by an understanding of the catalytic effect corruption has on facilitating criminality (including white-collar crime), terrorism, deterring foreign investment and stifling the growth of the economy. This whole of Government approach towards the elimination of waste, corruption and mismanagement has been implemented transparently, with Government maintaining ongoing dialogue with the private sector and civil society representatives on key national issues.

Under the coordinated efforts of this Government Trinidad and Tobago can expect to continue this upward trend in ratings as the Government is pressing forward with the “Follow-the-Money” Legislative Package; Criminal Justice reforms; strengthening our Anti-Money Laundering/Combatting the Financing of Terrorism legislation and effectiveness regime; new Revenue Authority and National Statistics structures and measure and with the operationalization of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act. These are key components of Government’s vision for a Trinidad and Tobago free from corruption, facilitating sustainable growth of the economy for the benefit of all our citizens.

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Dated: February 22nd 2018