



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

## MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Eric Williams Finance Building,  
Independence Square, Port of Spain.

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

13<sup>th</sup> July, 2010

For Immediate Release

**Budget Interaction – Day Two (2)**

#### ***Civil Society meets Finance Minister to discuss upcoming Budget***

**Port of Spain:** The Ministry of Finance Budget Interaction series continued today (Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2010) with discussions with stakeholders from the Civil Society Organizations of Trinidad and Tobago.

Representatives included: All People Matter Limited, Artiste Coalition, Advocate for Safer Parenthood Improving Reproductive Equity (ASPIRE), Autistic Society of T&T, Centre for Ethics and Good Governance, FITUN, Girl's Brigade, Government Pension Association of T&T, Hil – Care (NGO), Inter Religious Organization (IRO), Lifeline, National Chutney Foundation, National PTA, Network of NGOs, Scientific Information Services, Senior Achievers Association, St. George East Branch Association of Village/Community, The Rose Foundation, T&T Unified Fisher Folk Association, Tobago International Advocacy Against Child Abuse (IAACA), T&T Teachers of Visual Arts Association, Trinidad Informative Breastfeeding Service and Trinidad and Tobago Association for Responsible Persons (TTARP ).

In his address, Finance Minister Winston Dookeran expressed his gratitude to members for being part of the exercise and said that Civil Society plays an essential role in the development of the country, as they come from all levels of the community and the value which they bring to the budgetary process is important. He said, the articulation of people's values, ideas and proposals coming out of the budgetary process will give the Government the direction it needs to proceed in the future.

Persons taking part in the Budget workshop will be asked to make recommendations based on the Government's Seven Interconnected Pillars for Sustainable Development, which are:

- 1) People-Centered Development- We Need Everyone and All Can Contribute
- 2) Poverty Eradication and Social Justice- Preference for Poor and Disadvantaged
- 3) National and Personal Security-Human Security for Peace and Prosperity

- 4) Information and Communication Technologies – Connecting T&T and Building the New Economy
- 5) A More Diversified, Knowledge Intensive Economy- Building on the Native Genius of Our People
- 6) Good Governance- People Participation
- 7) Foreign Policy- Securing Our Place in the World

Some of the recommendations coming out of today's Civil Society workshop were:

- The empowerment of the less fortunate to access resources.
- Scholarships to persons with specialized skills (non –academic)
- Foster neighbourhood and community based security systems.
- Accessing international grants to assist NGOs, CBO's etc.
- The development of a plan for Alternative Energy.
- Contracting NGOs to partner with Government in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of interventions for beneficiaries in the social safety net.
- The establishment of a Civil Society Investment Programme (CSIP) similar to Government's Public Sector Investment Programme (PSIP).
- Develop infrastructure to allow the development of faith based tourism as an economic driver.
- Mechanisms to develop native skills which would lead to business opportunities.
- The establishment of a National Hall of Fame/ Portrait Gallery.
- Revisit the role of community centres as it relates to Architecture, Programmes, Functions and Administration.
- The overhaul of the protective service to deal with corruption.

The budget workshop continues until **Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2010** and will over the next two days include:

- Small- Medium Organizations and Companies and;
- Large Companies and Organization respectively

The objective of the Budget Interaction is to obtain full participation and contributions from citizens as the government move towards planning of the 2010/11 National Budget.

The Budget Interaction series takes place at the Ministry of Finance, on Level 20 at the Eric Williams Finance Building, Port of Spain and is scheduled from 9.00am – 4.00pm each day.

For further information please contact- **Ms. Beverly Foster**/ Communications Manager  
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