



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
Communications Unit

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For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

Budget Interaction 2010: Phase II

Port of Spain: Innovation, Investment and Advancement were the key words used in the Youth Contributions for the 2010/2011 national budget- words which the Honourable Winston Dookeran, Minister of Finance found compelling and key words in describing the presentation. The Ministry of Finance started Phase II of the Budget Interaction 2010 process today- Wednesday 21st July 2010- at the Head Office. Young and enthusiastic Keston Perry presented on behalf of a wide cross-section of Youth Organizations and young individuals, articulately presenting to Minister Dookeran five (5) priorities that he and 20 other young persons developed in the First Phase last week Monday. These priorities included Education and Youth Development, Culture Change and Community- Based Interventions, Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement, Diversification of the Economy and Foreign Policy and Governance.

Minister Winston Dookeran listened attentively to contributions made by Maurice Burke, National Youth Council; Ravi Lutchman, Trinidad Youth Council ; Farley Augustine, Tobago Youth Council and Mwale Henry, Trinidad and Tobago Youth Economic Society. Burke called for greater Corporate Social Responsibility, while Lutchman stressed on the need for Health and Family Life Education in schools- not just as part of the syllabus- but as a subject with its weekly allocated time. Among other points, Augustine called for manufacturing incentives to increase T&T's competitiveness in the Latin American market. "Trinidad and Tobago has the potential to be the greatest country in the world", he said proudly. Henry requested a socio-economic approach in developing the national budget and encouraged Church-based organizations (CBO's) to take on a bigger role in society. A challenge was also put forward to the Ministry to develop a Youth Economic Index in the coming years.

In his closing remarks, Minister Dookeran asked the group to suggest ways of setting up a mechanism for involving youth in policy formulation. Phase II continues on Tuesday 27th July 2010 and will include presentations from:

- Large Companies and Organisations
- Small-Medium Organisations and Companies
- Civil Society

For further information please contact Ms. Beverly Foster, Communications Manager at 627-9700 ext 2811 or 681-4761.

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