



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

MEDIA RELEASE

27th July, 2010

Budget Interaction 2010

Civil Society says T&T facing generational collapse

Port of Spain: At their final presentation before Finance Minister Winston Dookeran at the Ministry of Finance Budget Interaction 2010 Arts & Culture Activist Rubudari Victor who represented members of the Civil Society said there is an urgent need to help document valuable historical data on our local cultural legends before it's too late. He said the ambition of his organization over the last ten years was to interview over 20,000 persons so that vital information could be documented and passed on to future generations. Unfortunately, not much work has been done due to limited resources and many of the persons have since passed away, so the time is now. He is urging government to assist in preserving the golden age generation before it's too late.

Other key recommendations coming out from today's Civil Society meeting were:

- The establishment of a Civil Society Investment Programme (CSIP)
- A Guild of Masters Programme – passing out specialized cultural skills to persons, for example, wire bending in mass costume designing
- A Draft National Culture Policy
- The promotion of the Heritage and Spiritual Tourism sector
- Good Governance Delivery
- The need for fiscal transparency through performance base budgeting
- Publication of a report which measures the success of programmes outlined by government

In his address, Finance Minister Winston Dookeran expressed his gratitude to members for being part of the workshop and said that Civil Society is one of the sectors that play an important part in the rejuvenation of the economy. He challenged them however to re-engineer their role in the developmental process and to have to have specific targets and to promote these targets.

He said the government will continue in its efforts to establish a compact between society and itself as he sees this as the major agent for the country's development.

The Budget Interaction Series concluded today and ran for a period of two weeks starting on Monday 12th July, 2010 and also saw participation from other groups including, Youth, Small and Medium Sized Businesses and Large Organizations.

Recommendations from these presentations will be taken into consideration by the Minister of Finance for the upcoming 2011 National Budget.

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