



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

## MINISTRY OF FINANCE

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

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

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

For Immediate Release

### **Budget Interaction 2010**

**Port of Spain:** The Ministry of Finance today (Monday 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2010) began its Budget Interaction series, starting with the Youth of Trinidad and Tobago. Participants came from the following organizations: Caroni Youth Council, Catholic Youth Commission, Commonwealth Youth Representative of Trinidad and Tobago, Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs, National Youth Council, National Joint Action Committee (NJAC) Youth Arm, Pathfinders, RED Initiatives, T&T Youth Economic Society, Tobago Youth Council, Toco Foundation, Trinidad Youth Council, UWI Graduates, Victoria East District Youth Council, YMCA and Youth Alive.

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

In his welcome address to the various youth organizations of Trinidad and Tobago, Finance Minister Winston Dookeran said this was the beginning of new governance to public policy in public life and he urged them to take advantage of this opportunity in developing meaningful programmes of action through innovative and creative thinking. He added, that he was happy to start with the youth of the country as they brought with them fresh ideas and enthusiasm which can be used as a prescription for developmental change 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 youth workshop were:

- The implementation of one National Youth Policy which will be the overarching policy for all youth organization within Trinidad and Tobago.
- Re Evaluation of the Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses (GATE) Programme, with respect to proper monitoring of the system and also to make sure certain contractual commitments are kept by applicants.
- Alternative Education- the need for the authorities to identify students who may not be academic inclined and point them in a direction where they can excel in other areas for their overall growth and development.
- Multi- Sector Approach – a Tracking systems that provides career development of an individual from Nursery to Tertiary.
- The establishment of a National Youth Secretariat which primarily deals with youth related issues.
- The establishment of a Creative and Cultural Industry.
- The establishment of a Small Court, which deals with consumer's rights.
- The need to make the Agriculture sector more attractive for the youth by providing incentives for them to get involved.
- The creation of a database for employments of persons leaving such programmes as MUST, YAPPA and CCC which can be sourced by employers for future employment of these persons.
- The establishment of a Policy and Research Institute.
- More Information Communication Technology (ICT) in rural areas and the need to place more of the finances generated from Foreign Direct Investment into these areas.

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

- Non Government Organisations (NGOs), Individuals and Senior Citizens
- Small- Medium Organizations and Companies and;
- Large Companies and Organization respectively

For further information please contact- Ms. Beverly Foster/ Communications Manager  
Tel: 627-9700 ext: 2811.



**Finance Minister Winston Dookeran welcomes participants at the start of the Budget Interaction 2010**



**Some of the participants involved in the budget workshop**



**One of the group leaders makes a final presentation at the end of the workshop**

**End**