



PUBLIC SECTOR/ CIVIL SOCIETY GROUP

MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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START OF MEDIA RELEASE

- The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Bill was unanimously passed in the Senate during its 26th sitting, on Wednesday June 11th. The clarion call for implementing this most important piece of legislation started 35 years ago. The Private Sector/Civil Society has been lobbying for this reform since 2003 and is extremely encouraged by this milestone! This outcome is the result of a collaborative effort among Private Sector, Civil Society and Government including the Opposition. It is the furthest that we have all reached in the reform of public procurement in the last three decades. Additionally, we reiterate, that the Bill should be operationalized within 180 days of its approval by Parliament.
- We specially recognize the Minister of Planning and Sustainable Development for piloting the Bill, adopting some of our proposals and for encouraging dialogue with the Private Sector/Civil Society. The Minister was also instrumental in promoting the view that the Senate sit in committee to facilitate an expeditious resolution of the Bill.
- We recognize the efforts of the Senate for its work and unanimous support in passing the Procurement Bill. The civilized manner in which the proceedings at committee stage in the Senate were conducted engendered hope for our young nation.
- We also recognize the Independent Senators for their input into the process prior to the Bill being tabled in the house and all right thinking citizens should thank them for their diligent support of its passage in the senate.
- Whilst very pleased with the progress to date and while not having sight of the amended bill we note two areas that remain of serious concern; the Role of civil society and the acquisition and disposal of public property.
- However, we are confident that the House of Representatives will treat this matter with the diligence and civility as demonstrated by the Senate in committee stage. This matter as we are all aware is the single most important piece of legislation to date after the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

END OF MEDIA RELEASE