



JOINT CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

The Professional Centre Building
1st Floor Unit B202, 11-13 Fitzblackman Drive, Wrightson Rd. South, Port of Spain
Tel: (868) 623-9396/ 627-2522 Fax: (868) 625-5749
Email: jcctt1@gmail.com Website: www.jcc.org.tt

13th June, 2014

Political Party Financing

•Public Procurement Law is an essential part of curbing undue political influence and reinforcing the stability of our country. We sincerely thank the Parliamentarians for having taken the important steps in having the Public Procurement & Disposal of Public Property Bill 2014 approved unanimously in the Senate yesterday. We have concerns on two aspects of the proposed law, so we will continue lobbying for those changes, in the national interest.

•Damage caused by influence of Party Financiers

•Stability is necessary for our country's development

•PP's 2010 Manifesto at pg 69 - "*7. Promote legislation for the registration and funding of political parties subject to review of an independent body*"

•President Carmona's speech at opening of Parliament on 2nd August 2013 - http://www.thepresidency.tt/content/f7a2a_CeremonialOpeningParliamentFinal_AsDelivered.pdf - "*The second issue, Election Campaign Financing, is a veritable juggernaut that results in financiers arrogating political power unto themselves and thereby undermining the system of governance and democracy as we know it. Curiously, without exception, when political parties are in opposition they call for transparency in campaign financing; yet, when in the seat of power*

Political Party Financing

they conveniently neglect to address the issue. Madam, we must get really serious about this. It applies to all and sundry.

•The time has come when we must bite the bullet of campaign financing reform and introduce appropriate measures for disclosure, reporting and enforcement laws to ensure transparency and accountability in the management of the country's electoral system. This will certainly build citizens' confidence and enhance our system of democratic governance."

*•Helen Drayton's Senate Motion in November 2013 called for "**BE IT RESOLVED** that Parliament appoint a Joint Select Committee to propose a legislative framework to govern the financing of election campaigns and to submit its report with recommendations to both Houses of Parliament within six months of its appointment"*

•Fixin T&T and other groups have been calling for these measures

•As yet there is no consensus as to how the influence of party financiers will be curbed

•The JCC is calling on the Senators to continue their groundbreaking efforts and give favourable consideration to Senator Helen Drayton's Motion on the need for proper laws to control Party Political Financing. The JCC is urging our Senators to approve this substantial motion and proceed to a Joint Select Committee, so that public views can be heard before these important policies are formalised.

•The JCC is now joining the call for non-partisan and decisive action on Party Political Financing. Our country's interest requires no less.

13th June, 2014

Political Party Financing