



JOINT CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: 5th December, 2012

START OF MEDIA RELEASE

PORT OF SPAIN – PORT OF SPAIN – After consultation with the government and the Highway Re-Route Movement, the JCC and its Civil Society Kindred Associations – Federation of Independent Trades Unions and NGOs (FITUN), Trinidad & Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI) and Women Working for Social Progress (Working Women) - are pleased to confirm that we have appointed an independent working group to examine the several matters of concern on the disputed Debe to Mon Desir segment of the Solomon Hochoy Highway to Point Fortin.

The JCC and its Civil Society Kindred Associations have appointed Independent Senator, Dr. James Armstrong, as Chairman of the Independent Working Group.

The JCC and its Civil Society Kindred Associations has agreed the attached Terms of Reference for the examination of the facts in this matter and identified the required disciplines for the review.

The JCC and its Kindred Associations are now committed to this process for independent, civil society oversight of large-scale development in our country.

We regard this as a solid framework for the transparent ventilation of the matters in dispute.

This is a real advance in the development of our country, so we would like all parties to work in good faith within this process. The Independent Working Group will be inviting oral and written submissions within this exercise.

The Civil Society Groups are confident that these efforts would lead to a resolution of this protracted impasse and would signal the heralding of a new era of civil society's participation in the national development agenda.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

- Review all the documentation provided by NIDCO, HRM and other interested parties
- Invite written and oral submissions from interested parties
- Ascertain transparency and compliance with prevailing statutory requirements
- Examine the process of public consultation and public information Examine the TOR issued by the EMA for an Environmental Impact Assessment, along with any other relevant documentation, in order to ascertain implications for social, economic and environmental impacts of the highway development, including consideration of land tenure, land acquisition and costs, land use and displacement of families and attendant settlement development. This component of the review will consider cost-benefit analysis; social impact assessment; terrestrial and marine ecology, hydrology, drainage and public utilities.
- Examine the route selection process including the consideration of alternatives and the choice criteria
- Make recommendations for Best Practice
- Undertake any related tasks which will enhance the content of the Report

REQUIRED DISCIPLINES

- Environmental
- Transportation
- Hydrology / Drainage
- Social Economic
- Archaeology
- Planning / Settlements
- Economic Analysis
- Highway Engineering
- Property Valuation

END OF MEDIA RELEASE