



LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MEDIA RELEASE

The Council of the Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT) has noted the newspaper article published on 8th May 2023 on page 5 of the Trinidad and Tobago Newsday, which states as follows:-

"Asked about the optics of some of the appointments, the AG replied, "I consulted with the CJ before I made my recommendations to the PM. I also spoke to Mrs Seebaran-Suite as LATT president, who, to her credit, recused herself because she was one of the names under consideration. She passed that baton to other senior members of LATT with whom I had discussions."

So the optics are that it is a process which involves more than just the PM who makes the recommendation to the President, and the optics serve to ensure a fair, transparent consultative process."

The LATT further notes that on the 8th day of May 2023, the Trinidad Guardian reported that the Honourable Attorney General stated as follows:

"...after receiving the applications, he engaged in consultations with Chief Justice Ivor Archie and the Law Association before making recommendations to Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley."

"The Prime Minister, the Attorney General and the Law Association engaged in an exercise for a wide cross-section of members of the profession,"

The LATT wishes to state that the Council of the LATT was invited by the Honourable Attorney General to consult on the applications for admission to the rank of Senior Counsel, and a Sub-Committee of the Council (excluding those members who had applied for admission) was established for consideration of the invitation to consult.

A decision was taken by the Sub-Committee to discuss, with the Honorable Attorney General, the setting up of an independent committee headed by the Honorable Chief Justice to consider these applications. A nominee of the Sub-Committee communicated that position to

the Honourable Attorney General and requested a meeting with the Honourable Prime Minister to discuss the establishment of the independent Committee.

LATT was informed (in writing) by the Honourable Attorney General that the Honourable Prime Minister had declined the LATT's request to meet.

The LATT accordingly had no discussions whatsoever with the Honourable Attorney General on any applicant or the merits of any application for admission to the rank of Senior Counsel.

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9 May 2023