



LAW ASSOCIATION OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

MEDIA RELEASE

Proposals for the Justice Sector in Trinidad and Tobago as presented in the National Budget 2025/2026

The Law Association of Trinidad and Tobago (LATT) has keenly observed the presentation of the national budget for the fiscal year 2025/2026 by the Honourable Minister of Finance, Mr Davendranath Tancoo. The LATT welcomes the proposed announcement for the expansion of courtrooms in Chaguanas, Rio Claro, Sangre Grande and Diego Martin. We greet this initiative with open arms and believe that it takes us a step closer to closing the access to justice gap for members of the legal profession and the public.

The LATT is pleased to know that the Executive has considered strengthening the support rendered to key institutions within the criminal justice sector, such as the Offices of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Public Defenders' Department. Further, the proposed amendment to the Constitution to enshrine a right to a timely trial would hopefully ensure that members of the public have access to justice in a more timely and fair manner.

The LATT also notes the initiative to expand the victim support services to include restitution programmes, job placement assistance and housing opportunities for victims of crime. We look forward to these initiatives materialising for the benefit of the administration of justice and the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

The LATT notes the plan to create a new post of Judiciary Chancellor. The Honourable Minister explained the role of the Judiciary Chancellor as being that of the administrative officer who “will manage case flow freeing the Chief Justice to focus on jurisprudence” according to newspaper reports. LATT wishes to reserve comment on this matter until more information is forthcoming regarding that proposal.

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14th October 2025