

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Since the last meeting of the Committee of Experts, a General Election has been held in Trinidad and Tobago resulting in the election of a new majority government.

The new Government of Trinidad and Tobago is fully committed to the eradication of corruption in public life. In pursuit of this objective the new Attorney General instructed that a review take place of the anti-corruption legislation which had been prepared by the previous administration.

Following this review it is proposed to replace the anti-corruption scheme devised by the former government with a more effective scheme to be based on the model which currently operates in Hong Kong.

Currently the Ministry of the Attorney General is preparing a new Anti-Corruption bill to be presented to Parliament by the end of 2003. The bill will consolidate all anti-corruption laws and will subject to Cabinet approval, transform the Integrity Commission, which currently operates under the Integrity in Public Life Act, into a new Independent Commission against Corruption.

The draft legislation being prepared will better give effect to the obligations of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, under the Inter-American Convention against Corruption. It will also address the proposals coming out of the negotiations for a United Nations Convention against Corruption.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, with the assistance of the United Nations Development Program, has retained the services of the former head of the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption as a consultant, to assist the Ministry of the Attorney General in the preparation of the new anti-corruption legislation, and the establishment of a Trinidad and Tobago Independent Commission Against Corruption.

The new anti-corruption legislation should be drafted by the third quarter of 2003 and will be introduced into Parliament as soon as possible thereafter.