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**TO: ASSIGNMENT EDITORS**

**CHAMBER URGES GOVERNMENT TO MOVE FORWARD WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS**

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce urges the Government not to consider the postponement of the Local Government Elections, legally due by October 26 2013.

While we understand that there is need for the Constitutional and Local Government reform, and that the White Paper on Local Government Reform is now before Cabinet, we hope that the Prime Minister will not be so guided to make such a decision which will be detrimental to the democracy of Trinidad and Tobago.

Good governance for Trinidad and Tobago dictates that there should not be any delay in having these important elections, considering that the life of local government expired on July 26 2013. We expect that the Prime Minister, and by extension, the government, will not entertain the question of any postponement.

We do expect, however, that Local Government Reform will continue to be an urgent part of the Government's agenda, even following the Local Government Elections.

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