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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**June 11, 2019**

**Proposed Amendments to the Freedom of Information Act**

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce has been following the unfolding discussions on the proposed amendments to the Freedom of Information Act, Chapter 22:02 (FOIA). It was unfortunate that introduction of this very important piece of legislation on the Parliamentary agenda did not allow for this matter to have public consultation.

We acknowledge that the Honourable Attorney General has made changes to the proposed amendments with regard to the time-frames for information requests under the Act. Ultimately, it is necessary to maintain the purpose and intent of the Act, and avoid undermining it with bureaucratic obstacles. Any amendments should be guided by international best practices, global standards and norms.

It is our opinion that the Attorney General should defer laying the amendments in Parliament until proper public consultations have been completed. We wish to reiterate that such a process is integral to any legislation which impacts the country's stakeholders and citizenry.

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**FROM THE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT**