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For Immediate Release

### **Inter-island Ferry Service**

Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI) is very much concerned about the inter-island ferry service matter and especially so given the recent reported statements by the Honourable Prime Minister.

Based on the earlier reports it appeared to TTTI that a process had been followed and the outcome (and perhaps quality of same) was the issue. The statements by the Honourable Prime Minister (as reported) have however opened up questions about the process and perhaps those involved. The multiple investigations now underway will hopefully provide the answers to the issues that have arisen.

TTTI notes that the issues, concerns, controversies regarding the procurement of the vessels have arisen in the absence of functional modern procurement legislation. The Public Procurement Act must be operationalised with urgency so as to rebuild public confidence in state expenditure and place accountability on those responsible for public funds.

TTTI supports the call for disclosure of all the facts surrounding the procurement of the vessels. If there is evidence of wrongdoing to support the statements by the Honourable Prime Minister, those involved must be held to account in accordance with the law.

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