

# INSTITUTE OF SURVEYORS OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO (ISTT)

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**BY EMAIL**

The Editor,

The Institute of Surveyors of Trinidad and Tobago (ISTT) is in support of the recent call by Mr. Victor Hart for the publication of the 2003 Piarco Airport Enquiry Report arising from the Commission of Enquiry into the Piarco Airport Development Project. Mr Hart, a Chartered Quantity Surveyor, former Chairman of the Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute and one of the five Commissioners of the Piarco Airport Enquiry, has supported his suggestion by noting pointedly that had the Piarco Airport Enquiry Report been published and its recommendations adopted or adapted, our country would not have had to endure the many costly mistakes and failures that continue to occur within public procurement of large projects; the country would have saved the wastage of many millions of dollars of Public Money through mismanagement; and corruption could have been avoided during the last twenty years.

Indeed, another Enquiry - the Uff Enquiry into the failure of the Public Sector Construction Industry – also recommended the strengthening of procurement practices. The continuing delays in implementing the Public Procurement & Disposal of Public Property Act and the concomitant decline in standards of public administration have certainly denied our citizens value for money and a sustainable livelihood for our future generations.

The ISTT's support of Mr Hart's call for publication of the 2003 Report into the Piarco Airport Development Project is grounded on the facts that –

1. The Report can no longer be prejudicial to the investigations and disclosures in the Courts over the last twenty years; and
2. The Enquiry was undertaken in the name of the people and taxpayers paid for it, therefore, the people are entitled to know the outcome; and
3. The last (Paria) Commission of Enquiry, using today's technology, was successfully conducted publicly much to the appreciation of the citizenry.

The ISTT is of the view that the publication of the Piarco Airport Enquiry Report will be an important contribution to learning in this critical area of national development, especially in this time of reduced availability of Public Money.

Regards



Paula Drakes, MISTT, MRICS

Secretary, Institute of Surveyors of Trinidad and Tobago

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