



# JOINT CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

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On the 75th Anniversary of its birth, the JCC wishes to congratulate the Labour movement for its vanguard role as Champion of social progress through its representation of workers' rights.

For its vigilance against abuse and oppression, and for its sacrifices in promoting the cause of equity and justice, we all owe a great debt to the Labour movement which has stood implacably at the front of the march to Independence and national progress.

Today, in 2012, as the JCC salutes the Labour Movement for its 75 years of service to nation-building, Trinidad and Tobago faces a dangerous return to the old colonial 'Government to Government arrangements', a policy which strips our assets and insults our workforce.

Condemned and discredited 30 years ago by the Ballah Report, the policy of Government to Government arrangements has been re-embraced by the previous and current administrations without public discussion, stakeholder consultation or concern for its deleterious impact on our people and economy.

At a time when countries the world over are avidly securing the interest of their own people and fighting their cause in every market, the Trinidad and Tobago Government continues to dishonour its own people and waste precious foreign exchange in indefensible agreements with foreign companies whose way to T&T has been paved by their own governments. What a pity that our own governments prefer to fight with indigenous enterprises instead of supporting and promoting them in the markets of the world!

Given the participation of elements of the Labour Movement in the current government, the JCC is sure it can count on the Labour movement to join its call for a complete halt to 'Government to Government arrangements' pending a full review of every contract and consensus on the policy that should guide the future involvement of foreign companies in T&T. It is not in our nation's interest to squander the gains for which our foreparents sacrificed so much.

