



JOINT CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
The Professional Centre Building
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4th March, 2011

Ref: CO/Jus V/Mar-11/001

The Honourable Herbert Volney, MP,
Minister of Justice
Level 16, 17, 20 and 21,
Port of Spain International Waterfront Towers,
#1 Wrightson Road,
Port-of-Spain

Honourable Minister,

Re: The Uff Report

The Joint Consultative Council for the Construction Industry (JCC) welcomed the appointment of the Uff Commission of Enquiry into the Construction Industry, as a means of addressing widespread public concerns over perceived corruption in those operations of the State.

The Uff Report was completed and published in March 2010, which was a landmark in our history as the first Commission of Enquiry report to be published.

The JCC is writing to seek your update on an important matter arising from the publication of the Uff Report. Our concern is not, on this occasion, related to the aspects of possible criminal charges and convictions. We are here pursuing the implementation aspect.

Firstly, the ninety-one (91) recommendations of the Uff Report were a clear statement as to the necessary steps to ensure that such monumental waste of public resources never again takes place in our country. So much so, that the present administration has on several occasions given its public commitment to ensuring the implementation of those recommendations. That commitment is fully endorsed by the JCC.

We understand that the implementation of the Uff recommendations is now the responsibility of the Justice Ministry. This letter serves as our formal request for a public update as to what progress has been made in that exercise.

//2 In that connection ...

3 March, 2011
Ref: CO/Jus V/Mar-11/001
Honourable Herbert Volney (MP)
Minister of Justice
-2-

In that connection, we are enquiring whether an implementation working party has been established. Has separate funding been identified and/or made available? What bottlenecks or technical hurdles have been identified?

In the event that such a working party has not yet been established, we would invite your attention to one of the most important of the 91 Uff Report recommendations to prevent the recurrence of corruption and wastage in procurement.

No. 49 reads as follows:

It should be assumed that the construction industry is vulnerable to potential corruption and steps should be taken to avoid actual corruption following the guidelines and recommended practices laid down by Transparency International and its affiliates.

We urge you to invite the Trinidad and Tobago Transparency Institute (TTTI), the National Chapter of Transparency International, to be part of any implementation working party or committee you may set up so as to ensure that you have the benefit of an authoritative exposition of the "guidelines and recommended practices" that Professor Uff had in mind when that recommendation was written.

In furtherance of achieving a broadly-based and effective implementation working party, we are also offering to delegate two JCC representatives as members, so that the intended exercise can benefit from the necessary expert input.

We look forward to your earliest response to our concerns as outlined above.

Yours respectfully,

**JOINT CONSULTATIVE COUNCIL
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY**



Afra Raymond, B.Sc., FRICS
PRESIDENT



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THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Ref: CO/Jus V/Mar-11/001

- 3 -

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Association of Professional Engineers
of Trinidad and Tobago

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PRESIDENT
Institute of Surveyors of
Trinidad and Tobago

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