

Comments on draft Constitution Amendment (Tobago Self Government) bill.

Section 141

Should the requirement that an appointee or electoral candidate be a person who " resides in Tobago" be refined to stipulate a specific length of time ?

With regard to the location of funds earned by the island of Tobago, are such funds to be deposited to the Tobago Fund or to some other local account held by the THA or and the Tobago Executive council? Is it necessary to stipulate that these funds are to be separate from the annual 6.8 % budgetary allocation to Tobago and subject to management of the THA. Is the Tobago Fund to be administered by the national government or by the Tobago Island government ?

At the section on the Financial Review Commission and the mechanism for revenue sharing between the two islands is it necessary to state that monies generated from national economic activities which derive from land, air or marine areas in Tobago should be allocated to the Tobago Fund , at least on an agreed ratio basis . What should this ratio be given the interpretation that could be accorded to the definition in the preamble of "equal status "with the island of Trinidad ?

If salaries and allowances for representatives are to be derived from the Tobago Fund , what percentage of the 6.8 % allocation do these recurring expenses represent and to what extent is the sum available for development initiatives reduced given the additional positions/roles created as the Executive Council as well as 3 additional for the THA . Are the Service Commissions proposed also to be paid from the Tobago fund or by the national government.