

Resolution Towards

Democratic Self - Government

for Tobago!

Whereas

The Issue of "**Democratic Self Government for Tobago**" has engaged the people of the two islands, Trinidad and Tobago, since the Union of 1889.

And Whereas

The need to establish an appropriate "**Tobago Self Government**" has been recognized by all participants in the national political arena, since 1977, but remains an outstanding goal of the **Tobago People**

And Whereas

In consideration of the Issue of Tobago's Self Government, useful points of departure or reference for the establishment of Tobago's right to Self Government can be found in the provisions of the constitution of Trinidad and Tobago, the decisions of the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago, the assertions of universal and international entities , and the conventions of natural justice

And Whereas

Specific citations that support Tobago's right to Self determination can be found in International Law and Conventions, particularly;

1. United Nations Charter
2. United Nations Declaration of Human rights, 1948, ~~and~~
3. The **Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, 1960**, which states,

All people have the right to Self Determination, by virtue of that right, they freely determine their political status and

*freely pursue their economic, social, and cultural development,
and*

**4. The International Convention on Economic, Social, and cultural
Rights of 1966**

And Whereas

Every other system of governance other than ^{democratic} ~~democratic~~ self governance
has been tried in Tobago and has failed

And Whereas

The Chief Secretary and the Leaders of the three political parties
contesting the Tobago House of Assembly Elections 2013, namely, the
Peoples National Movement (PNM), the Tobago Organisation of the
People (TOP) and The Platform of Truth (TPT), conscious that the most
fundamental right of human beings in society is the right to self
determination, convinced that the time had come to attain **Democratic
Self Government for Tobago**, recognizing the need for the people of
Tobago to speak with one voice on the issue, have submerged their
individual political party's agendas, and agreed to constitute the Forum
of Tobago Political Parties for the principal purpose of working together
to attain **Democratic Self Government for Tobago**,—the single most
important goal of the Tobago people,

And Whereas

The Forum, conscious that the populations of the islands, the
communities, families and individual citizens that constitute the Union,
have never previously been fully informed, consulted or engaged on the
issue, over these years, and that the conversations, debates,

agreements and edicts, sought, reached and proclaimed have been a matter for the governments, at the colonial offices in London and in Port of Spain.

And Whereas

The process, consisting of a series of consultations entitled, **Towards Tobago's Autonomy**, has engaged the population of Tobago, living in Tobago, Trinidad, the Caribbean and the wider diaspora; has examined the proper way forward for Tobago, and sought consensus on:

- i) Issues fundamental to Tobago's Self government
- ii) issues fundamental to Tobago in a relationship with Trinidad
- iii) a set of core principles that transcend political differences
- iv) a process for inter-party consultation on fundamental issues relating to Tobago

Be it Resolved that this Convention of the People of Tobago, meeting here at the Signal Hill Secondary School, today, September 14th 2014,

A. agrees and asserts that the issues fundamental to Democratic Self Government for Tobago include, inter alia;

- 1. Responsibility of the Tobago Administration to formulate and implement policy on all matters affecting the lives of ^{the} people resident in Tobago**
- 2. Equality of Status between the islands and a constitutional, legislative and administrative framework reflecting such equality**
- 3. A Federal - Type System of governance**

4. ^{Delineation} ~~Definition~~ of the boundaries of each island
5. Jurisdiction and control over economic resources in Tobago's defined geographic space
6. Freedom for the Tobago Administration to make laws to govern Tobago
7. Ability to borrow to fund Tobago's Development
8. Authority and responsibility in the Tobago Administration to formulate and implement fiscal policy, including taxation measures
9. Removal of Cabinet dominance and over-ride of decisions made in Tobago by the Tobago Administration
10. Legal framework providing for the wider participation of ^{the Tobago} society in the decision making process of the Tobago Administration
11. Management and control of the inter-island transportation systems to reside in Tobago

B. do hereby authorise, instruct and mandate the Forum of Political Leaders to take all proper and necessary steps to achieve and secure Democratic Self Government ^{for} ~~to~~ Tobago in the shortest possible time

C. requires that the Forum ensures that the Self Government secured for Tobago includes the appropriate provisions to treat with issues agreed and asserted in A. } to ^{||} ~~the~~ above.