



Media release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**“2013 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS DEBATES UPDATE”**

The Trinidad and Tobago Debates Commission (TTDC), an independent NGO, has invited the Senior Party Representatives and Leaders of the political parties contesting the 2013 Trinidad and Tobago Local Government Elections to participate in: “2013 Local Government Elections Debates”. The two debates to be held in the lead up to the 2013 Local Government Elections (the Senior Party Representatives’ Debate and the Leaders’ Debates) are carded for live broadcast on Thursday 10 October and Tuesday 15 October 2013 respectively. The main themes for the Debates will be ‘Local Government Reform’ and ‘Local Government Representation’.

The TTDC has paid careful attention to the nomination of the candidates and the number of contested municipalities from the various parties. The TTDC met today following Nomination Day and agreed to exercise its discretion in the public’s interest as cited in The Criteria for Participation to include the Movement for Social Justice (MSJ) in the 2013 Local Government Elections Debates. The People’s Partnership (PP), People’s National Movement (PNM) and Independent Liberal Party (ILP) have also been invited to debate as previously communicated in the media.

We continue to thank the media and the public for their support thus far and look forward to successfully hosting these debates in order to achieve our overall mission to: *“Strengthen the democratic process by staging debates on matters of national importance to assist electorate in making informed political choices”*.

More information on the upcoming “2013 Local Government Elections Debates” can be found by visiting the TTDC Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/ttdebatescommission](http://www.facebook.com/ttdebatescommission) or our website [www.ttdc.org.tt](http://www.ttdc.org.tt).

**THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO DEBATES COMMISSION**