Composition:

The Tobago House of Assembly consists of:

- Twelve (12) elected Assemblymen;
- Four (4) Councillors: three (3) of whom are appointed in accordance with the advice of the Chief Secretary and one (1) in accordance with the advice of the Minority Leader;
- A Presiding Officer who may or may not be an Assemblyman or a Councillor.

Offices within the Assembly:

The **Presiding Officer** is elected by the Assemblymen and presides over all Sittings of the Assembly.

The **Deputy Presiding Officer** is elected from among the Assemblymen and Councillors; and deputises for the Presiding Officer in his/her absence.

The **Chief Secretary** is elected from among the Assemblymen and heads the Executive Council.

The **Deputy Chief Secretary** is elected from among the Assemblymen and deputises for the Chief Secretary in his/her absence.

The **Executive Council** comprises the Chief Secretary, the Deputy Chief Secretary and not more than seven (7) other Secretaries (increased from the original five (5) via THA Amendment Act No. 17 of 2006), selected from among the other Assemblymen and Councillors, as advised by the Chief Secretary. This body is responsible for carrying out the functions of the Assembly. Seven (7) Secretaries, along with the Chief Secretary and Deputy Chief Secretary, are assigned specific areas of responsibility within the Executive Council but are collectively responsible for all decisions of that Council.

Assistant Secretaries assist Secretaries in specific areas of their respective portfolios.

The **Leader of Executive Council Business** controls the arrangement of business in the House, consulting with the Minority Leader as necessary.

The **Minority Leader** is the Assemblyman who, in the opinion of the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, commands the support of the largest number of Assemblymen who do not support the Chief Secretary.

Assemblymen are those elected members who have not been assigned any special responsibilities as they relate to the conduct of the business of the Assembly.

Councillors are those nominated members who have not been assigned any special responsibilities as they relate to the conduct of the business of the Assembly.