

*London heartened by improved relations with Gov't...*

## GOOD SIGNS FOR DEVELOPMENT

The signs from recent collaboration between the Tobago House of Assembly (THA) and Central Government are encouraging to Chief Secretary Orville London.

At Thursday's (November 26) plenary sitting, The Chief Secretary said he is heartened by the positive signals of an improve relationship between both bodies, including THA representation on 20 state boards.

"One of the things that we put on the table, Mr. Presiding Officer," London said, "is that the THA should be represented on Boards, which in the opinion of the Assembly, impact on the delivery areas over which the Assembly has responsibility. Under the previous administration the THA was represented on six boards."

London also revealed that Central Government will support the de-silting

of the Hillsborough Dam, which the THA has been requesting for years. Some other important development projects have had to be shelved because of a lack of funding for development.

Central Government, he said, will also fund other projects such as police stations at Roxborough and Old Grange, fire stations at Roxborough and Courland, and a new terminal at the ANR Robinson International Airport.

## TOBAGO DAY CELEBRATIONS START WEDNESDAY

In less than two days Tobagonians will gather to kick off celebrations of the island's heritage and the way forward.

The inaugural Tobago Day will be celebrated on Friday (December 4), but the celebrations will start on Wednesday (December 2) with "Joyful, Joyful", a praise and worship concert, at the Shaw Park Complex.

It will feature several religious denominations and artistes in thanksgiving.

Following the concert, the Tobago House of Assembly

will host a two-day exhibition on Wednesday and Thursday, featuring all its Divisions and allied agencies.

The Office of their Prime Minister, Tobago Affairs, will also join in celebrations, and will have its own display at the exhibition.

The annual tree-lighting ceremony takes place on Thursday (December 3) at the Botanic Station in Scarborough. On Friday, the Assembly Chamber will host a youth debate. The Chief Secretary's Awards take place on Friday night at the Shaw Park Complex.



**YOUTH DEBATE:** Minority Leader Aphea James, right, receives an award from former senator Cynthia Alfred following the youth debate at Assembly Day 2014 at the Assembly Chamber. James was the winner of the debate.

## ISLAND'S OFFICIALS 95% IC COMPLIANT

Public officials, including Government Ministers, Members of Parliament, and in the case of Tobago, Assemblymen and Councillors, all have to meet the requirements of the Integrity in Public Life Act.

Compliance is regulated by the Integrity Commission.

The Commission is on a drive to deliver faster access to those which fall under the Act, when they have queries or require

further information. Chairman Zainool Hosein recently visited Tobago past part of its outreach programme, and explained the process to officials here.

He said the Commission "has no significant problem" with Tobago, which he declared 95 per cent compliant with the Integrity in Public Life Act.

Chief Secretary Orville London is pleased at the Commission's efforts to become more efficient.

"I did indicate to the Commission that we in Tobago do have some unique problems and to a certain extent those problems sort of increase the psychological distance between us and the Commission," London said.

"Therefore an initiative like this, and (the Commission's) commitment to have some kind of presence in Tobago during the non-crisis periods, I think is a step in the right direction."