LAST CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY

The final convention was held yesterday to give the public one last chance to comment on the provisions of the draft bill for Tobago’s Autonomy.

Chief Secretary Orville London said the document will then go to Executive Council, before it’s discussed by the Tobago House of Assembly. Once this is done, a motion will be moved to have the document submitted to Cabinet. The Chief Secretary also hinted that the Assembly could be dissolved soon.

“There is a strong possibility the Chief Secretary will move a motion to dissolve the House of Assembly within the next one to six weeks,” London said. “So that again is a constraint, because if the House is dissolved and this doesn’t go to the House, it can’t go to Cabinet until after the next election....”

Tobagonians can still submit their comments to the Secretariat for Tobago’s Autonomy up until Friday (October 7) at the UTC Building in Scarborough.

Anyone seeking further information can call 639-3421 extension 2028.

NEW WINNER FOR TOUR OF TOBAGO

Canada’s James Picolli is the new champion of the 2016 UCI 1.20 Tour of Tobago, which is the main event of the Tobago International Cycling Classic.
Second was Jaime Ramirez of Colombia, and Adderlyn Colon of the Dominican Republic was third.
Picolli was also King of the Mountain, and Antigua’s Jymes Bridges was the Caribbean’s best cyclist. Akil Campbell was Trinidad and Tobago’s top competitor.
The overall Cycling Classic title went to Arno Van Der Zwet of the Netherlands.

TALKING YOUTH AFFAIRS: Members of the panel during the Department of Youth Affairs’ Roundtable Discussion. From left are lawyer Devonne Miggins, assistant superintendent Collis Hazel, Dr. Matt Myrie and Speak Out T&Ts Adam Raffoul.

LONDON SATISFIED WITH BUDGET, DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Tobago’s allocation from the national budget is $2.35 billion for fiscal 2017. That’s short of last year’s allotment of $2.772 billion.

Chief Secretary Orville London said he’s satisfied with what has been presented based on the current economic challenges facing the nation, prompted by a precipitous fall in energy prices in late 2014.

The figure represents 4.4 per cent of the national budget of $53.4 billion. Of that amount, $2.045 billion has been allotted for recurrent expenditure, another $289 million for capital expenditure, and $20 million for URP.

London said the most encouraging aspect of the budget is Central Government’s commitment to begin a number of development projects in the new financial year, which the THA has been requested for a number of years. These include construction of the new ANR Robinson International Airport terminal, police stations at Old Grange and Roxborough, the desalination plant at Cove, and additional electricity capacity for the island.