AN ACT to amend the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act

[Assented to 29th December, 2020]

ENACTED by the Parliament of Trinidad and Tobago as follows:

1. This Act may be cited as the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property (Amendment) Act, 2020.

2. In this Act, “the Act” means the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act.
3. This Act shall come into effect on such date as is set by the President by Proclamation.

4. Section 4 of the Act is amended by deleting the definition of “bid rigging”, and substituting the following new definition:

   “bid-rigging” means collusive price-fixing and anti-competitive behaviour which is designed to unfairly influence the outcome of a competitive tender process in favour of one or more bidders;”.

5. Section 7 of the Act is amended—

   (a) in subsection (2), by deleting the words after the words “prevail” and substituting the word “.”; and

   (b) by inserting after subsection (4), the following new subsections:

      “(5) Subsection (3) shall not apply to reports regarding matters of national security.

      (6) This Act shall not apply to the following services provided to public bodies or State-controlled enterprises—

      (a) legal services;

      (b) debt financing services for the national budget;

      (c) accounting and auditing services;

      (d) medical emergency or other scheduled medical services; or

      (e) such other services as the Minister may, by Order, determine.
(7) An Order under subsection (5) shall be subject to affirmative resolution of Parliament.

(8) The Minister shall submit to the Office annual guidelines which outline the circumstances under which exempted services in subsection (6) may be procured.

(9) The Office shall forward a copy of the guidelines in subsection (8) to the Speaker of the House of Representatives who shall cause the guidelines to be laid in Parliament at the earliest opportunity.”.

6. Section 13(1) of the Act is amended by deleting paragraph (o).

7. Section 29 of the Act is amended by deleting paragraph (c) and substituting the following:

“(c) have not been convicted within the past ten years of corruption or fraud related offences locally or internationally—

(i) as individuals; or

(ii) as directors or officers of a company;”.

8. Section 50(12) of the Act is being amended by deleting the words “twenty working” and substituting the word “thirty”.

9. Section 59 of the Act is amended by inserting after subsection (1), the following subsection:

“Chap. 45:55  (1A) For the purposes of subsection (1), “relative” means a spouse, cohabitant within the meaning of the Cohabitation Relationships Act, father, mother, brother, sister, son or daughter.”.
10. Section 66 of the Act is amended—

(a) in subsection (1), by inserting after the words “on the date of assent of this Act”, the words “or on the coming into force of this Part”; and

(b) in subsection (2)—

(i) by deleting the word “Act” and substituting the word “Part”;

(ii) in paragraph (a), by deleting the word “retire” and substituting the word “retirement”; and

(iii) in paragraph (c), by deleting the word “remain” and substituting the word “remaining”.

Passed in the House of Representatives this 4th day of December, 2020.

Clerk of the House

Passed in the Senate this 8th day of December, 2020.

Clerk of the Senate

Senate amendments were agreed to by the House of Representatives this 11th day of December, 2020.

Clerk of the House