

# Opinion Leaders' Panel 2008

Wave 12 Report

Research Study Conducted for the  
Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

(Final – 06/04/09)



Fieldwork: 25 – 30 September 2008



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# 1. Introduction

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## 1.1. Background and objectives

The Opinion Leaders Panel was established as part of the Programme for Modernising Government in Trinidad & Tobago. The objective of this research is to provide evidence about the views of citizens of Trinidad & Tobago as a basis for informed decision making, policy formulation and implementation with respect to public service delivery.

This volume contains the report from Wave 12 of the Opinion Leaders Panel. This survey was conducted by MORI Caribbean with HHB & Associates on behalf of the Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago.

## 1.2. Methodology

In total 704 completed interviews were achieved for OLPW12. This was based on sampling 820 respondents from the full Panel of 2,362 members who have telephone numbers (either in their household or a cellphone). This gives an overall response rate of 86%.

All interviews were conducted by telephone between 25 and 30 September 2008.

The data have been weighted by age, ethnicity, gender and regional corporation to the 2000 census data. Weighting for work status is derived from an analysis of the most recent labour force survey data.

Following the quantitative survey, four focus groups were completed in October 2008. The focus groups were recruited and moderated by Caribbean Market Research under the direction of MORI Caribbean. The focus groups were conducted after the fieldwork to help explore the reasons for people's views as expressed in the quantitative research.

## 1.3. Comparative data

Throughout this report, comparisons have been made with results from previous waves of the Panel. These were conducted on the following dates:

Wave 1, 15 July – 29 August 2002 (base size 2,747)

Wave 2, 28 June – 16 July 2003 (base size 693)

Wave 3, 6 – 22 December 2003 (base size 700)

Wave 4, 17 July – 6 August 2004 (base size 710)

Wave 5, 29 January – 1 April 2005 (base size 2,426)

Wave 6, 22 July – 8 August 2005 (base size 687)

Wave 7, 31 May – 15 July 2007 (base 2,540)

Wave 8, 23 – 27 August 2007 (base 948, by telephone)

Wave 9, 16 December 2007 – 21 January 2008 (base size 983)

Wave 10, 8 March – 22 April 2008 (base size 2,362)

Wave 11, 23 July – 13 August 2008 (base size 704)

## 1.4. Area combinations

Reference is made in this report to different areas of the country, which have been classified as follows:

- i. **North** (Port of Spain and Diego Martin)
- ii. **South** (San Fernando, Point Fortin, Princes Town, Penal/Debe and Siparia);
- iii. **East** (Arima, San Juan/Laventille, Tunapuna/Piarco, Rio Claro/Mayaro and Sangre Grande);
- iv. **Central** (Chaguanas and Couva/Tabaquite/Talparo); and
- v. **Tobago**.

## 1.5. Presentation and interpretation of the data

This study is based on interviews conducted on a representative sample of the adult population of Trinidad & Tobago. All results are therefore subject to sampling tolerances, which means that not all differences are statistically significant. In general, results based on the full sample are subject to a confidence interval of  $\pm 4$  percentage points. A guide to statistical reliability is appended.

Where percentages do not sum to 100, this may be due to computer rounding, the exclusion of “don’t know” categories, or multiple answers. Throughout the volume, an asterisk (\*) denotes any value less than half a per cent but greater than zero.

In the report, reference is made to “net” figures. This represents the balance of opinion on attitudinal questions, and provides a particularly useful means of comparing the results for a number of variables. In the case of a “net satisfaction” figure, this represents the percentage satisfied on a particular issue or service less the percentage dissatisfied. For example, if service records 40% satisfied and 25% dissatisfied, the “net satisfaction” figure is +15 points.

In several instances identical questions were also asked in Wave 8 of the Panel (base size 948). Differences between these two Waves would need to be at least five percentage points for them to be statistically significant.

It is also worth emphasising that the survey deals with citizens' *perceptions* at the time the survey was conducted **rather than with 'truth'**, and that these perceptions may not accurately reflect the level of services actually being delivered.

## 1.5. Acknowledgements

MORI Caribbean would like to thank Mr Kennedy Swaratsingh, Minister; Ms Arlene McComie, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Public Administration and their colleagues; Mr Claudelle McKellar, Ms Donna Ferraz, Mr. David Bazil and Ms Coreen Joseph; the Central Statistical Office, Kim Bayley at Caribbean Market Research and Louis Bertrand and the team at HHB & Associates for their help in executing this project. In particular, we would like to thank all the 704 citizens of Trinidad & Tobago who gave up their time to take part in this survey and to tell us their views.

## 1.6. Publication of data

As the Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago has engaged MORI Caribbean to undertake an objective programme of research, it is important to protect the interests of both organisations by ensuring that the results are accurately reflected in any press release or publication of findings. As part of our standard Terms and Conditions of Contract, the publication of the findings of this research is therefore subject to advance approval of MORI Caribbean. Such approval will only be refused on the grounds of inaccuracy or misrepresentation.

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*Sir Robert Worcester, Mark Gill and Tom Huskinson*

## 2. Executive Summary

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### Awareness of the Budget Speech

- Almost all adults in Trinidad and Tobago (96%) are aware of this year's Budget Speech, with three in ten having watched or heard it live, and just over half having seen it discussed via media outlets.

### Attitudes to the Budget Overall

- The public is far more critical of this year's Budget than of those in previous years: a majority of persons (55%) are negative, which is almost twice the proportion of those who were negative in 2003, 2005 and 2007.
- Approximately seven in ten respondents feel that the Budget proposals are “a bad thing for them personally” and just over six in ten feel they are “a bad thing for the country”.

### Attitudes to Specific Details in the Budget

- The public believes the government has “got it about right” for three of the nine Budget announcements: “increasing the number of PTSC buses”, “the maximum allocation for post graduate study”, and “the proportion of children benefiting from the School Feeding Programme”.
- The public believes the government has “not promised enough” in terms of “the senior citizen's grant”, “pensions for public servants”, and “disability grants”; and has “gone too far” in term of “the increased cost of premium gasoline” (it is this proposal that the public is most negative about).
- The public strongly support “providing PhD scholarships for T&T citizens who obtain a first class honours degree”. There is also support for “free Ferry Passes to persons aged 65 and over”, “cleaner fuels in public service vehicles”, and to a lesser extent, for the “creation of the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre”.
- Opinion is split on “closing the casino gambling industry within the next five years”, and the majority are opposed to “increasing the Motor Vehicle Tax on the importation of private motor vehicles”.

### Perceptions of the Impact of the Budget

- The Budget is seen to have the most positive impact on the quality of education and the development of sports. For all other areas polled the public feel, on balance, that the budget will not lead to positive results.
- The Budget is seen as least likely to help with increasing local food production, reducing food prices, tackling traffic congestion and reducing crime.

## **Rights as a Caricom Citizen**

- The great majority of adults in Trinidad and Tobago feel that Caricom citizens should be allowed to “attend primary school” (74%), “attend secondary school” (75%), or “work part-time” (77%) in any Caricom country. Most also feel Caricom citizens should be able to “live in any Caricom country” (64%), “work full-time in any Caricom country” (62%), and “enter any Caricom country as a tourist without a visa” (61%). Views are more mixed in terms of “conducting business in another Caricom country without a visa”, but most feel this should be a right (53%).
- In contrast there is much less support for single bodies or institutions across the Caricom countries. Approximately one quarter of the respondents (24%) support a “single police force”, with support being slightly higher for a “single army” (32%) and “single navy/coastguard” (37%). There is more support – but still less than 50% - for a “single Olympic team” (47%), “single currency” (45%), “single football team” (45%) or “single intelligence service” (44%).

## **Attitudes to Proposals for Caribbean Integration**

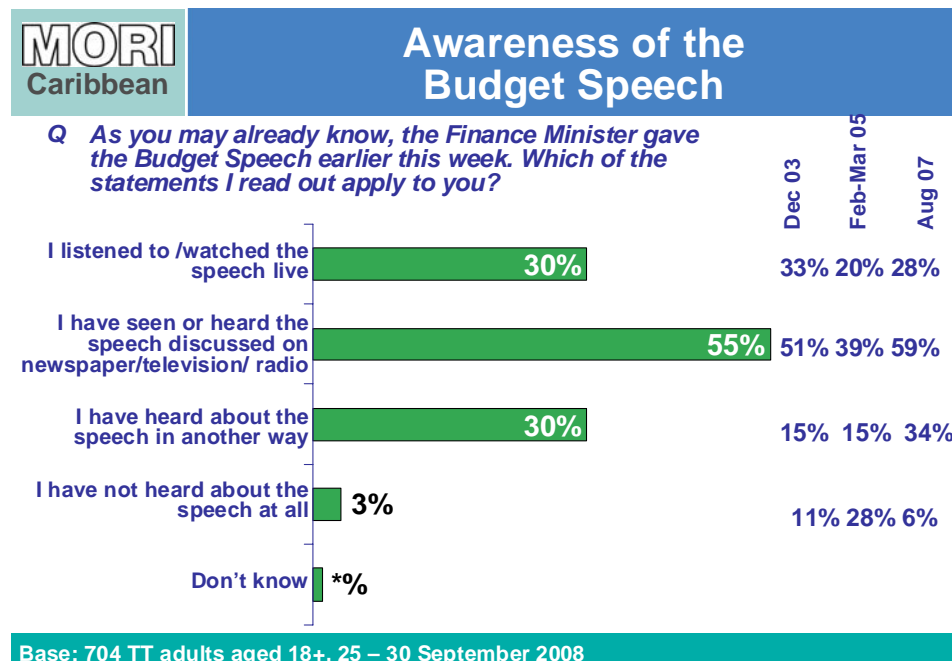
- Residents of Trinidad and Tobago strongly support greater economic and political co-operation with other Caribbean countries. Half of the public are aware of plans for integration in the Caribbean, and of these, over two in five support the plans, compared to almost a third who oppose them.

### 3. Awareness of the Budget Speech

#### 3.1. Awareness of the Budget Speech

Nearly all adults across Trinidad & Tobago (96%) have heard about this year's Budget Speech in some way, including three in ten (30%) who reported that they had watched or listened to the Speech live and, over half (55%) who had seen it discussed in the media or heard it discussed on radio.

The proportion of the public who watched the Speech live in 2008 is similar to the proportions watching the Speech live in 2007 (28%) and 2003 (33%). A lower proportion say they saw the 2004 Speech live (20%), although some of this lower percentage may be because the fieldwork for recall of the 2004 Budget Speech was conducted at the beginning of 2005 and not soon after the Speech, as with the other surveys.

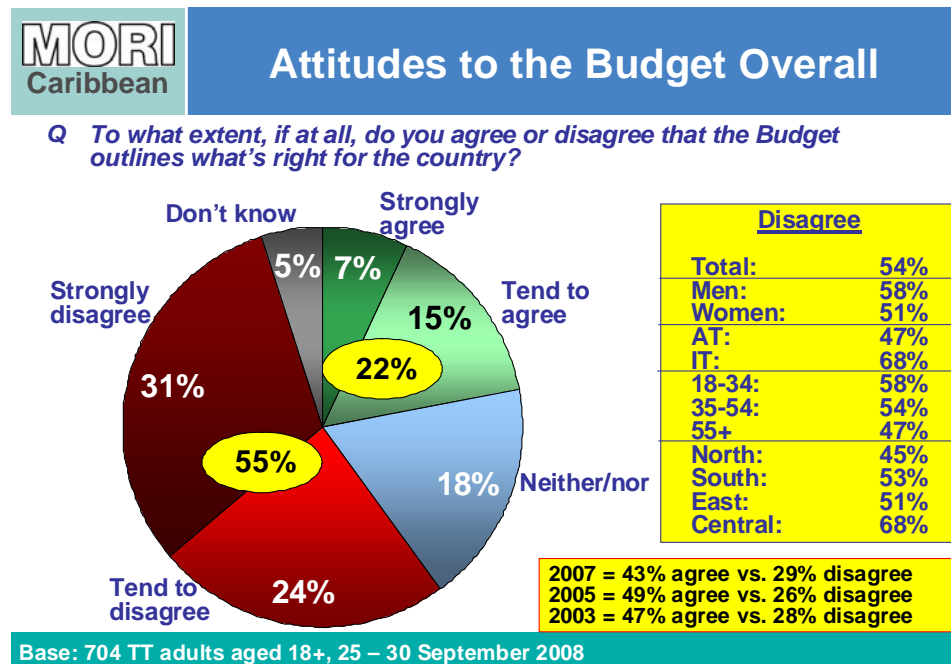


## 4. Attitudes to the Budget Overall

### 4.1. Overall Attitudes to the Budget

Twice as many people disagree (55%) than agree (22%) that the Budget *outlines what's right for the country*. This includes three in ten adults (31%) who strongly disagree and only one in fourteen who strongly agree.

Across all the key sub groups of the population fewer than three in ten are positive about the Budget overall, with Indo-Trinidadians (16%), people aged 35 to 54 years (18%) and those in Central (18%) least likely to be positive.



Compared with public attitudes to previous Budgets, **the public in 2008 are much more critical this year**. In 2003, 2005 and 2007 more people were positive than negative about each of these Budgets, with only 27% (plus or minus one percent) in each of these three years saying they disagreed that the Budget sets out what is right for the country. In 2008, twice this proportion disagree (55%) that the budget set out what is right for the country.

The following are some typical comments from focus group participants about the Budget Speech:

*"There was nothing that showed how the Budget would really benefit the people"* (Central)

*"It was irritating because she was just going on and on about infrastructure"* (Central)

*"Everything she said sounded great, but when is it going to be implemented?"* (North)

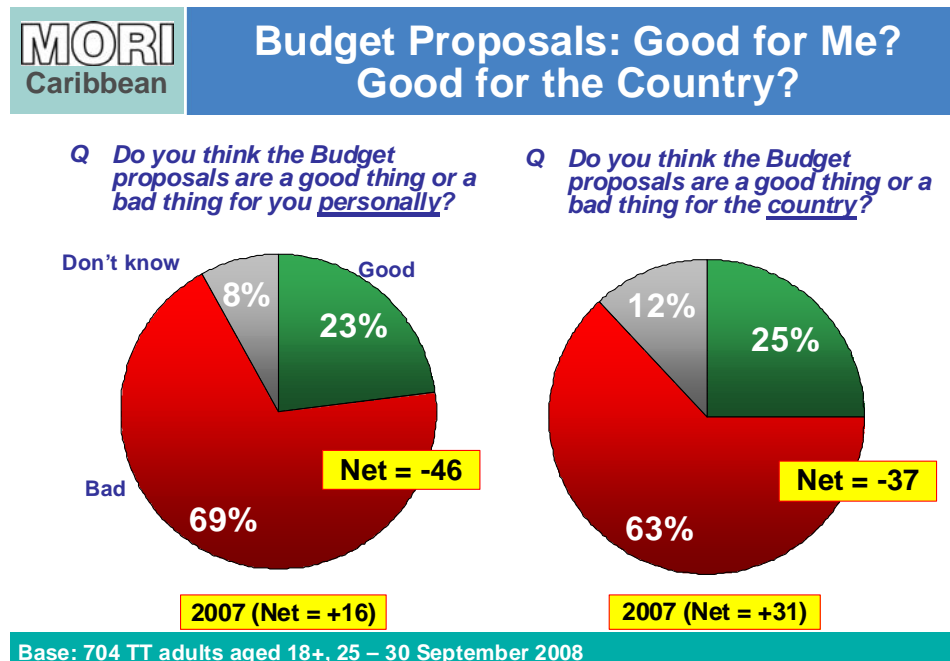
*"It was a repeat of other Budgets"* (East/West Corridor)

"It is the same thing every year" (South)

## 4.2. Not Good for Me; Not Good for the Country

A similar proportion of the public – one in four people – believes that the Budget proposals are good for "me personally" and good for "the country". On both questions, the majority believe the proposals are bad (69% for "me personally" and 63% for the "country as a whole").

This means that on balance, the public is more critical about the perceived personal impact of the Budget than its impact on the country as a whole – albeit they are negative about both. This is in contrast to views on the 2007 Budget, where on balance the public were positive both about the personal and national impact of the Budget, and more positive about the perceived impact the Budget would have on the country (+31 net positive) than on people personally (+16 net positive)



Before specific details of the Budget were discussed in the focus groups, participants were asked to say **what they liked** most about this year's Budget proposals; the following are some of their responses:

- ✓ Free education
- ✓ Provision of buses, especially in rural areas
- ✓ Increase salaries for employees in the public sector
- ✓ Free ferry tickets for persons over 65 years of age
- ✓ Increase in the disability grant
- ✓ Increase in the pension
- ✓ Increase in scholarships

Participants were also asked to say what proposals in the Budget they **disliked**, these included:

- ✗ Increase in disability grant too small
- ✗ Increase in the price of premium gas
- ✗ Lack of accountability for spending
- ✗ Focus on achieving Vision 2020 rather than dealing with current issues
- ✗ Plans for crime
- ✗ Increase in taxes
- ✗ Increase in HDC houses
- ✗ Not enough attention given to elderly people

Below are some of the comments made about the Budget:

*"I dislike what they are spending the money on. Can you afford a house at HDC?" (Central)*

*"I found their focus really was about reaching 2020. It wasn't about now, it was about getting there." (North)*

*"There is no accountability for spending" (East/West Corridor)*

*"We should be encouraging people to use premium gas, because it is more environmentally friendly, but yet they increase it! (East/West Corridor)*

Focus group participants were also asked what they think was missing from this year's Budget. The main omissions were felt to be:

- More help for lower class people
- Introducing housing that was cheaper and more accessible
- More increases for pensioners
- Controlling of food prices
- Training for the protective services
- Accountability of government spending
- Increasing the minimum wage
- Showing how much funding each Ministry receives
- More on tourism
- More on culture
- Lack of compassion

## 5. Attitudes to Specific Proposals in the Budget

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### 5.1. Reaction to Specific Proposals

The public was asked for their reaction to nine specific proposals set out in the Budget Speech, and to indicate whether they feel the proposals are “about right”, “too much” or “not enough”. The two charts on the following page show the findings.

For three of the nine specific announcements, the majority of the public believe the announcements are “about right”. These are: the “increase in the number of PTSC buses to 400” (67% say about right), the “increase in the maximum allocation for Post Graduate Study” (65%) and “increasing the proportion of children benefiting from the School Feeding Programme” (61%).

There is no clear public consensus on the proposal to “increase the minimum threshold for which stamp duty is paid on the purchase of a new home”. Around a third of the public (34%) thinks that this proposal is “about right”, but slightly more – two in five people – say that this proposal is “too much”. However, feedback from the focus group participants suggest that many people did not understand this proposal, with some incorrectly believing it meant an increase in the cost of house prices.

With the proposal to “increase Government investment in Agri-business” just over a third (36%) believe the Government’s proposals are “about right” with more saying that it is “not enough” (46%).

For three of the Budget proposals more than half the public do not think the Government has promised enough. These are: “increasing the senior citizens grant” (56% say “not enough”), “increasing the minimum pension payable to retired public servants” (59%) and “increasing the disability grant” (63%).

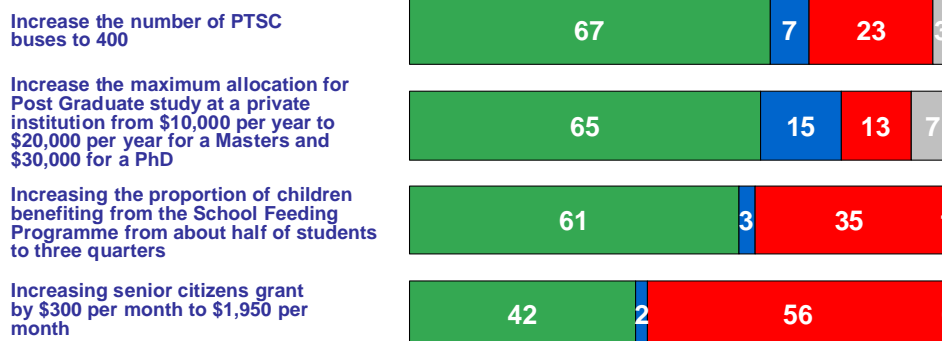
The specific proposal which meets with most criticism from the public is “increasing the price of premium gasoline”, as 77% of the public say that this increase is “too much”.

Views on the Budget are fairly consistent across the main sub-groups of the public. The key differences are with “investment in Agri-business” where men (53%) and Indo-Trinidadians (52%) are most likely to say the increased investment is “not enough”. People aged 55 years and over are more likely than those between the ages of 18-24 years (62% vs. 47%) to believe that the “increase in the senior citizen grant” is “not enough”. Interestingly, we also find twice as many of the younger group than older people (22% vs. 11%) saying the “increased allocation for post-graduate study” is “too much”.

## Budget Specifics (1)

Q For each of the following proposals outlined in the Budget Speech, please tell me whether you think these are too much, not enough or about right?

■ % About right ■ % Too much ■ % Not enough ■ % Don't know

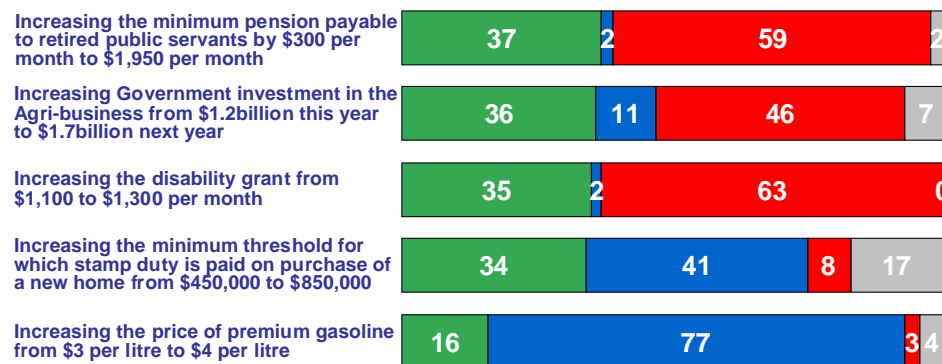


Base: 704 TT adults aged 18+, 25 – 30 September 2008

## Budget Specifics (2)

Q For each of the following proposals outlined in the Budget Speech, please tell me whether you think these are too much, not enough or about right?

■ % About right ■ % Too much ■ % Not enough ■ % Don't know



Base: 704 TT adults aged 18+, 25 – 30 September 2008

## **Focus Group Responses**

The appendices provide more detail on the reactions of focus group participants to the above proposals. For three of these, discussions were more detailed and the feedback is set out below.

### **Impact on education**

Focus group participants were positive about the impact of the Budget on the quality of education and many gave several examples of why they feel education will improve, including:

- ✓ Free books
- ✓ First degree programmes
- ✓ Many facilities from ECCE to tertiary education
- ✓ More schools and de-shifting of secondary schools
- ✓ More scholarships

### **Impact on crime**

Few participants remembered anything in the Budget that was addressed to tackling crime, and as such people's views on this mainly reflect their concerns about the high levels of crime in the country and the widespread perceptions of corruption in the Police service.

*"They are always giving a certain amount of vehicles to the Police and by the next two days, you're hearing that they have no vehicles" (South)*

*"More money would be allocated to the Ministry of National Security, but it would not be effective if there are no trained personnel" (East/West Corridor)*

### **Impact on food prices**

As with attitudes to crime, the majority of participants said they did not recall any specific proposals in the Budget to tackle food prices, and this is one of the reasons why people were so negative about the Budget's impact on food prices. The one exception was some awareness of plans to build a super farm.

*"The didn't touch on food prices" (East/West Corridor)*

*The super-farm would only be effective if it is run by the government and not the farmers, because the farmers exploit us" (North)*

## 5.2. Right or Wrong to Do?

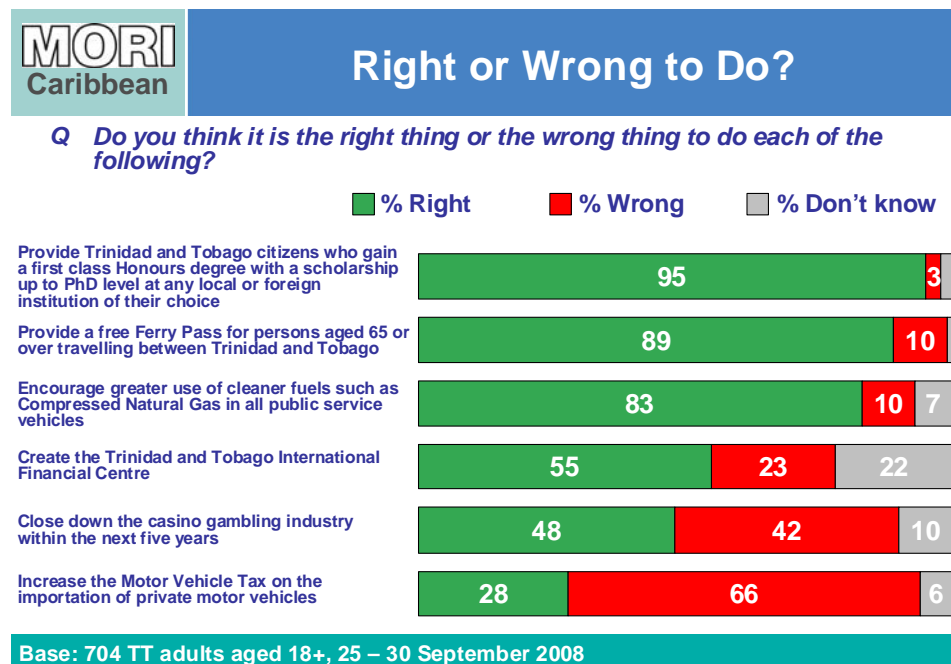
There is almost universal agreement that it is right to “provide T&T citizens who gain a first class Honours degree with a scholarship up to PhD level at any local or foreign institution”: 95 percent of the public agree with this proposal.

There is also strong public backing to “provide a free Ferry Pass to persons aged 65 or over for travelling between Trinidad and Tobago” (89%) and to “encourage the greater use of cleaner fuels such as Compressed Natural gas in all public service vehicles” (83%).

Just over half the public (55%) believe it is right to “create the Trinidad & Tobago International Financial Centre” – the remainder of the public are equally divided into thinking it is “wrong to do this” (23%) or saying they “do not know” (23%) whether it is a good idea or not.

The public is divided on whether it is right (48%) or wrong (42%) to “close down the casino gambling industry within the next five years”. Men (44%) and persons within the 18-24 year age group (44%) are least likely to support this proposal.

Most people believe it is wrong to “increase the Motor Vehicle Tax on the importation of private motor vehicles” (66% say it is wrong to do this).



## **Focus Group Responses**

The focus group discussions focused on participants' reactions to the proposal for **closing down the casino industry** within the next five years. Participants were divided about this.

The main reasons for supporting closure were that gambling is seen as a vice and has negative impacts both on those involved, as well as for the wider society.

*"Gambling is immoral"* (East/West Corridor)

The key reasons why participants opposed closure of casinos was that it was seen as a legitimate form of recreation, that it is people's rights to gamble if they wish and that closure would create unemployment which would impact negatively on society.

*"Closing it down would mean that they are taking away a form of de-stressing"* (South)

*"Closing it down would be revoking a person's rights"* (North)

The focus groups also asked for participants' understanding of the proposed **International Financial Centre**. While most participants assumed that this was something to do with encouraging foreign investment in Trinidad and Tobago, many were unclear about what it is and how it would impact on the country. Some felt it was a way in which Trinidad and Tobago would be able to invest in other countries, while others suggested it was like having an international savings account.

Generally, participants were supportive of the Centre, believing it **would boost tourism**, but unclear about its actual impact on the country. This suggests that there is a gap between the purpose of the International Financial Centre and many people's understanding of what it is intended to achieve.

*"it is for foreign investors coming here"* (East/West Corridor)

*"It would be a Caribbean version of Wall Street"* (North)

Virtually all participants were aware of the global financial crisis, particularly as it seems to already be affecting developed countries such as the USA and the UK. Most felt it would have an impact on the International Financial Centre in that it would be more difficult to attract foreign investment. While some did not feel that Trinidad and Tobago would be affected by the global crisis, others suggested that if America is in recession then this country would be negatively impacted too.

*"America is in recession and everybody else is heading into it"* (Central)

## 6. Perceptions of the Impact of the Budget

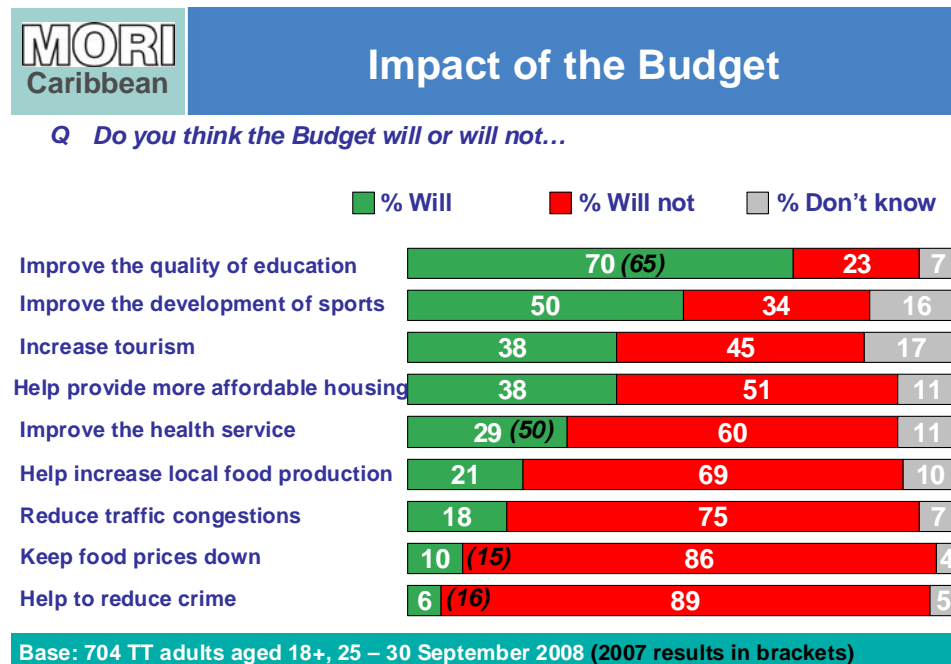
### 6.1. Impact of the Budget

Seven in ten people (70%) believe that this Budget will “improve the quality of education”. This is the area in which the public is most positive about the effect of the Budget and it is also higher than in 2007 (65%). Half the public (50%) also believe the Budget will “improve the development of sports”.

Almost four in ten persons believe that the Budget will “increase tourism” (38%) and “help provide more affordable housing” (38%) – but in both cases more people believe the Budget will not do these things.

There is a very marked difference in views about the impact on the health service this year compared with 2007. This year, just 29% of the public believe the Budget will lead to improvements in the health service – down from 50% saying this last year about the 2007 Budget.

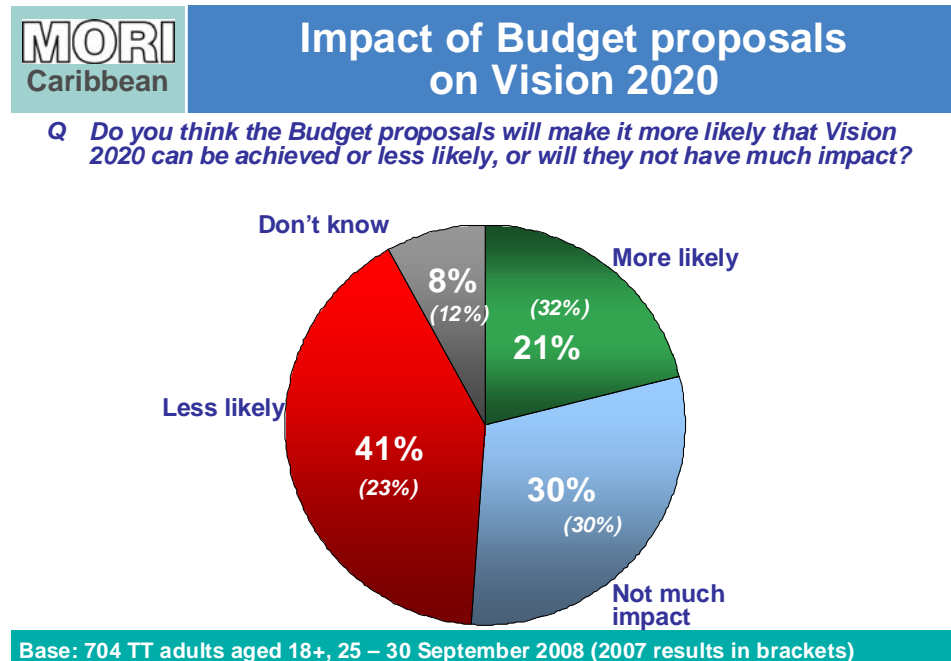
A clear majority of people think the Budget will not help “increase local food production” (69%), “reduce traffic congestion” (75%), “keep food prices down” (86%) or “help to reduce crime” (89%).



## 6.2. Impact on Vision 2020

Twice as many people believe the Budget proposals will make it “less likely” rather than “more likely” that Vision 2020 will be achieved (41% vs. 21%). In contrast last year by a ratio of three to two, people felt that the 2007/08 Budget would make the Vision more rather than less likely to be achieved.

To some extent the negative views about the impact of the Budget will also represent a fall in confidence in Vision 2020 being achieved since it was last measured in 2007. In Wave 8 of the Opinion Leaders’ Panel (August 2007), 52% of the public were confident that the Vision will be achieved; by August 2008 this confidence level had fallen to 41%



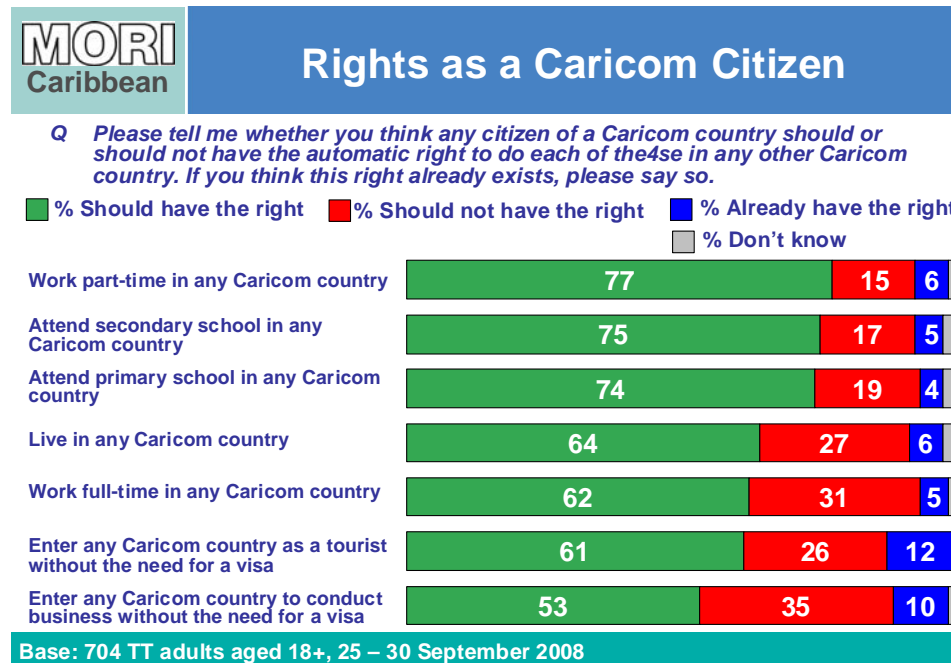
## 7. Caricom

### 7.1. Rights as a Caricom Citizen

There is widespread agreement that citizens of a Caricom country either “should have” or “already have” a number of rights in any other Caricom country. In particular three quarters or more of the public believe that “Caricom citizens should be allowed to work part-time” (77%), “attend secondary school” (75%) and “attend primary school” (74%) in any Caricom country.

There is broad consensus that people should be allowed to “live in any Caricom country” (64%), “work full-time” there (62%) and “enter as a tourist without a visa” (61%).

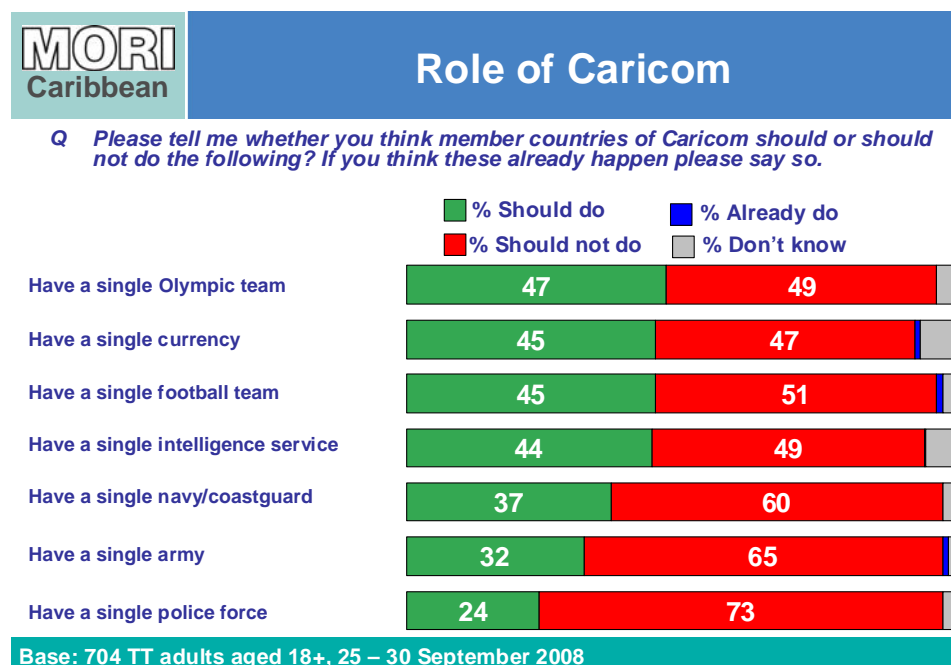
The highest level of disagreement is on the right to “conduct business in another Caricom country without the need for a visa”. Approximately one in three persons (35%) do not think people should have this right, but more than half believe people should have the right (53%).



## 7.2. Role of Caricom

While the previous results show that most people believe that individuals should have several rights in other Caribbean countries, there is lower support for Caricom countries to have a range of unified organisations or institutions.

In four areas, the public is approximately equally divided between those who think it “should” and those who think each “should not” happen. These are having “a single Olympic team” (-2 net responses think that Caricom should do),<sup>1</sup> “a single currency” (-2 net), “a single football team” (-6 net) and “single intelligence service” (-5 net).



There is little appetite for unified defence forces across the Caricom with fewer than four in ten believing there should be “a single navy/coastguard” (37%), less than a third in favour of “a single army” (32%) and just under one quarter favouring “a single police force” (24%).

In the focus group discussions, some participants felt a single army or police force would be beneficial in the event of a national or regional disaster, and also to fight organised and regional crime. However, more were concerned that a single police force would either create too powerful a body or lead to more corruption than already exists.

*“The only advantage of that is in the instance of a crisis like a hurricane, they would come together and help out” (East/West Corridor)*

*“There might be more corruption” (East/West Corridor)*

<sup>1</sup> Net is the calculation of “should do” minus “should not do”

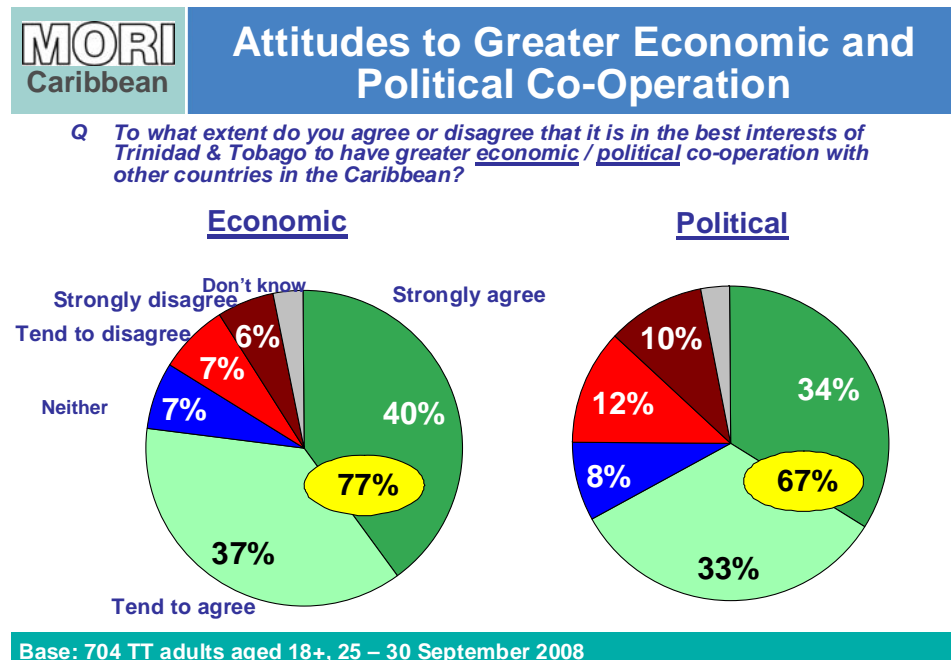
## 8. Attitudes to Proposals for Caribbean Integration

### 8.1. Economic and Political Co-operation

There is strong public support for greater economic (77% agree) and political (67% agree) co-operation with other countries in the Caribbean.

For both these questions, many more people *strongly* agree than *strongly* disagree with the notion of economic and political co-operation. For instance, almost seven times as many respondents strongly agree than strongly disagree about the need for greater economic co-operation.

Support for both economic and political co-operation is lowest among persons aged 55 years and over, and amongst Indo-Trinidadians, though still approximately six in ten respondents from these groups support increased political integration and seven in ten support increased economic integration.



The focus group participants were also positive about the benefits of greater co-operation between Caricom countries. The main reason given was that it would strengthen all Caribbean countries in a globalized world.

*“Unity is always better because it is the Caribbean competing against the world”* (Central)

*“People have to realise that in order to survive, they have to come together”* (East/West Corridor)

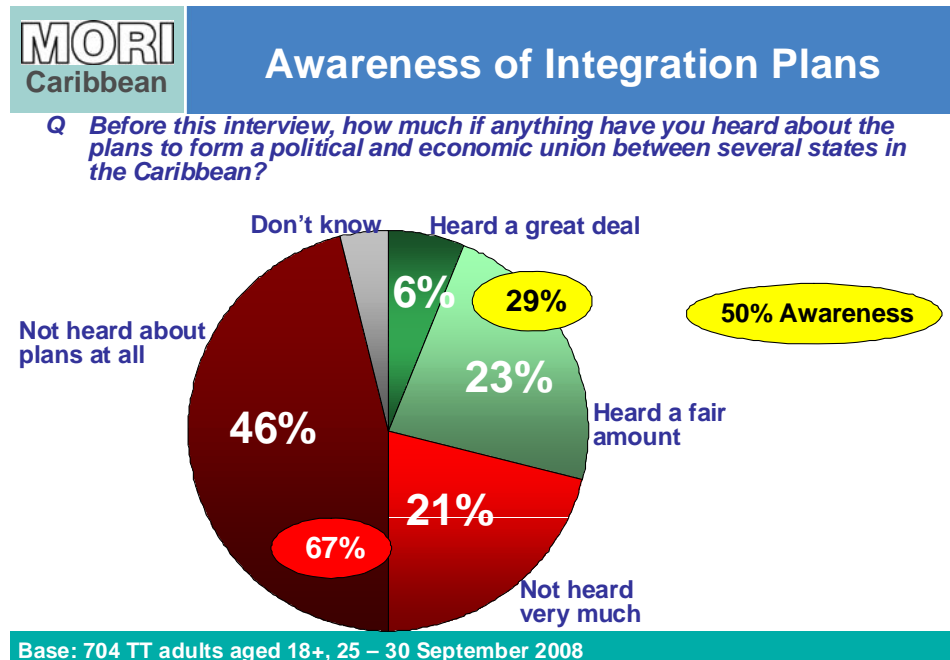
At the same time, there were some concerns with several people believing that economic integration would not necessarily lead to better use of resources; and some concerns that political integration could lead to either too powerful a leader of Caricom or conflict between states.

## 8.2. Awareness of Integration Plans

Most people are not well informed about plans for political and economic union in the Caribbean. Just six percent of respondents say they have heard a great deal about the plans, and a further one quarter (23%) have heard a fair amount. A similar proportion (21%) say they have not heard very much, but the biggest proportion (46%) are those who say they have not heard about the plans at all.

In total, while 50% of the public are at least aware of the plans, two thirds (67%) have heard not very much or nothing at all about them.

The low levels of familiarity with the integration plans are true for all key sub groups of the public.



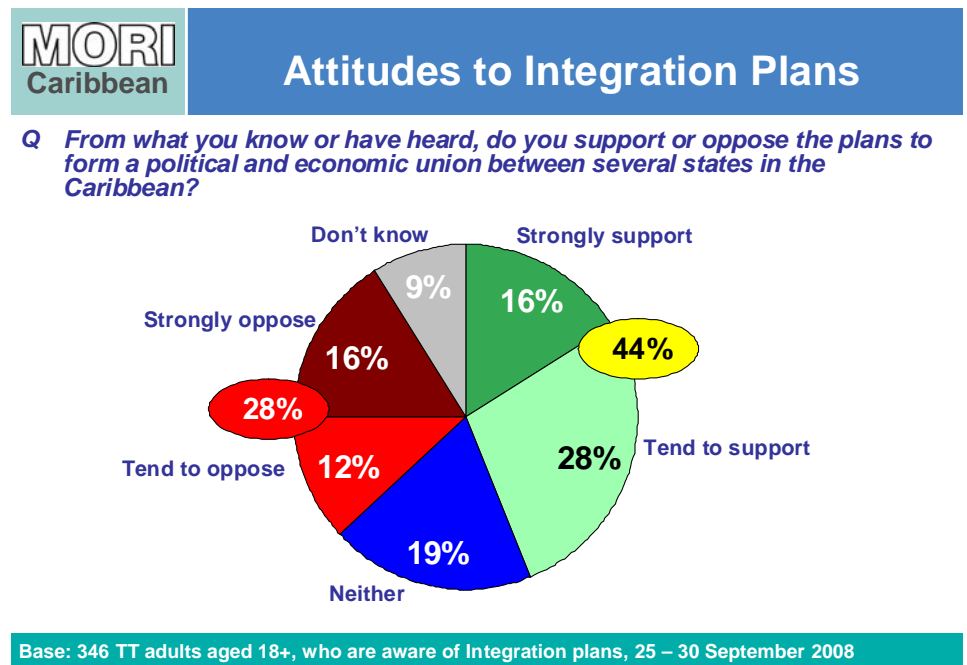
There was little understanding of the integration proposals among the focus group participants. Some felt it would lead to the Caribbean becoming more like the USA or the European Union.

Some participants suggested it would benefit Trinidad and Tobago as this country would be able to tap into Guyana's food resources, but many were not clear on the benefits for Trinidad and Tobago and wanted to know more about this.

### 8.3. Attitudes to Integration Plans

Among the 50% of the public who have at least heard about plans for integration, more support the plans (44%) than oppose them (28%), although exactly the same proportion (16%) say they strongly support and strongly oppose.

More men (47%) than women (39%) support the plans, as do persons in the 18-24 age group (54%) more than those aged 55 years and over (36%). Also, Afro-Trinidadians (48%) are more positive than Indo-Trinidadians (39%).



The top reasons people give for supporting the integration plans are:

- 27%: unity is a strength / Caribbean must speak with one voice vis-à-vis large countries;
- 17%: the entire Caribbean will benefit economically; and
- 13%: just feel it is a good thing.

The main reasons given for opposing the plans are:

- 25%: just don't feel it will be a good thing/will be ineffective;
- 12%: everyone should maximise their own resources and order their own house;
- 12%: our country could suffer economically; and
- 7%: too much conflict will result / leaders will not agree

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# Appendices

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# I. Guide to Statistical Reliability

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The sample tolerances that apply to the percentage results in this report are given in the table below. This table shows the possible variation that might be anticipated because a sample, rather than the entire population, was interviewed. As indicated, sampling tolerances vary with the size of the sample and the size of the percentage results. Strictly speaking, these sampling tolerances apply to only random probability sample, and thus these should be treated as broadly indicative.

<b>Approximate sampling tolerances applicable to percentages at or near these levels</b>			
	<b>10% or 90%</b>	<b>30% or 70%</b>	<b>50%</b>
	±	±	±
<b>Size of sample on which Survey result is based</b>			
100 interviews	6	9	10
200 interviews	4	6	7
300 interviews	3	5	6
400 interviews	3	5	5
500 interviews	3	4	4
600 interviews	2	4	4
704 interviews	2	3	4

*Source: MORI Caribbean*

For example, on a question where 50% of the people in a sample of 704 respond with a particular answer, the chances are 95 in 100 that this result would not vary by more than 4 percentage points, plus or minus, from a complete coverage of the entire population using the same procedures.

Tolerances are also involved in the comparison of results from different parts of the sample, or when comparing results from different groups of residents. A difference, in other words, must be of at least a certain size to be considered statistically significant. The following table is a guide to the sampling tolerances applicable to comparisons.

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**Differences required for significance at or near these percentages**

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	<b>10% or 90%</b>	<b>30% or 70%</b>	<b>50%</b>
	±	±	±
<b>Size of sample on which Survey result is based</b>			
100 and 100	8	13	14
100 and 200	7	11	12
100 and 300	7	10	11
100 and 400	7	10	11
100 and 500	7	10	11
200 and 200	7	10	11
200 and 300	5	8	9
313 and 391 (Men v. Women)	5	7	7
301 and 268 (Afro-Trinidadians vs. Indo-Trinidadians)	5	8	8
2,362 and 704 (Wave 10 and Wave 12)	3	4	4

*Source: MORI Caribbean*

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The table above also shows that when comparing results from the Wave 12 survey with the Wave 10 survey, differences need to be around  $\pm 4\%$  at the 50% level to be significant.

## II. Guide to Social Classification

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The table below contains a brief list of social class definitions as used by the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising. These groups are standard on all surveys carried out by Market & Opinion Research International (MORI) Limited.

<b>Social Grades</b>		
	<b>Social Class</b>	<b>Occupation of Chief Income Earner</b>
A	Upper Middle Class	Higher managerial, administrative or professional
B	Middle Class	Intermediate managerial, administrative or professional
C1	Lower Middle Class	Supervisor or clerical and junior managerial, administrative or professional
C2	Skilled Working Class	Skilled manual workers
D	Working Class	Semi and unskilled manual workers
E	Those at the lowest levels of subsistence	State pensioners, etc, with no other earnings

*Source: MORI Caribbean*

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### III. Sample Profile

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	<i>Unweighted</i>		<i>Weighted</i>	
	<i>N</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>n</i>	<i>%</i>
<b>Total</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>704</b>	<b>100</b>
<b>Gender</b>				
Male	287	41	351	50
Female	417	59	353	50
<b>Age</b>				
18-34	266	38	304	43
35-54	277	39	267	38
55+	161	23	133	19
<b>Work Status</b>				
Full/Part-time/Self-employed	414	59	437	62
Not working	289	41	266	38
<b>Ethnicity</b>				
Afro-Trinidadian	292	41	266	38
Indo-Trinidadian	285	40	294	42
Other	124	18	141	20
<b>Regional area</b>				
North	70	10	73	10
South	191	27	185	26
Central	144	20	142	20
East	265	38	266	38
Tobago	24	3	28	4

*Source: MORI Caribbean*

## IV. Detailed Information on Response Rates

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In total 704 completed interviews were achieved for OLPW12.

This was based on sampling 822 members from the full Opinion Leaders Panel of 2,362 members

This gives an overall response rate of 86%.

The reasons for non-contact among panel members were:

- 34 no contact after 3 visits
- 4 were deceased and will be removed from the Panel
- 14 migrated or moved
- 28 no contact. Phone was either out of service or wrong number
- 2 were out of the country
- 31 refused to be interviewed and declined to be on the Panel
- 5 were too ill to be interviewed

## V. Validation Checks

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HHB & Associates carried out a series of validation checks to monitor the quality of interviewing. A summary of the validation process outcome is shown below.

### Checks by Supervisors and Co-ordinator

121 validation interviews were done by the Supervisors and the Co-ordinator:

- i) 6 people were not interviewed (action – all questionnaires were rejected and interviews re-done);
- ii) 5 respondents were not asked the full set of questions (action – panel members were re-interviewed).

79 calls were made to respondents to verify only that they were visited by interviewers and all questions were asked. In all cases the interviews were correctly done by the interviewer.

## VI. Topline Results

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## VI. Focus Group Feedback

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### 1) Increasing Government investment in the Agri-business from \$1.2billion on this year to \$1.7billion on next year

- A minority of participants aware of initiative – around a quarter across all groups
- A large majority supported the initiative
- Two groups (North and Central) said that they themselves would benefit

### 2) Increasing the number of Public Transport Service Corporation buses to 400

- Nearly all participants across all groups are aware of initiative
- A large majority were also in favour of the initiative
- Very few people strongly opposed it
- It was said that transport users and residents in rural areas would benefit
- ***'People would benefit from it, especially school children and people without cars' – East/West Corridor***

### 3) Increasing the proportion of children benefiting from the School Feeding Programme from about half of students to three quarters of students

- Mixed awareness in the initiative – high in the North group; low in Central
- Strong support for the initiative across all groups
- Students and teachers would benefit most from this initiative
- ***'All schools should have it' – North***

### 4) Increasing the price of premium gasoline from \$3 per litre to \$4 per litre

- Complete awareness in the initiative
- Almost complete opposition to the measure
- It would benefit taxi drivers but negatively effect the public due to rising prices of other products
- ***'Even if you don't have a car, when fuel goes up, everything goes up' – East/West***

### 5) Increasing the disability grant by \$300 per month to \$1,950 per month

- 94% of participants are aware of the proposal
- Majority of participants strongly support the proposal but it should be greater as the price of everything else is rising
- Majority agreed that disabled people would benefit from the proposal

### 6) Increasing senior citizen by \$300 per month to \$1,950 per month

- Almost all participants were aware of the proposal
- Most of the participants support this, but feel it does not go far enough
- Some suggested it should be more
- ***'More money could go into this' – East/West***

### 7) Increasing the minimum pension payable to retired public servant by \$300 per month to \$1,950 per month

- Strong awareness across all groups apart from the South group
- Mixed support of the proposal – strong support in the North group and strong opposition in the South group
- Groups stated that presently retired public servants would benefit the most

### 8) Increasing the minimum threshold for which Stamp Duty is paid on purchase of a new home from \$450,000 to \$850,000

- Low awareness in the proposal – about a quarter across all groups
- Strong support in North and South groups – opposition in East West and neither strong support or opposition in Central group
- ***'It makes a home more accessible' – North***

- ***'This is more addressing the HDC housing which is for the poor man' - North***

**9) Increasing the maximum allocation for Post Graduate study at a private institution from \$10,000 per year to \$20,000 for a Masters degree and \$30,000 for a PhD**

- Just over half of all participants across all groups aware
- Strong support in the North and South group
- Participants in South and Central unsure of what it meant

**10) Creating the Trinidad and Tobago International Financial Centre**

- Strong awareness in North and East West groups – almost no awareness in South and Central
- Most groups neither strongly supported or strongly opposed the proposal
- Few groups could see the benefit or the reason why it should be developed
- ***'What is the role and function of this?' – East/West Corridor***

**11) Increasing the Motor Vehicle Tax on the importation of private motor vehicles**

- Nearly all participants were aware of the proposal
- Mainly strong opposition to the proposal
- Few could identify benefactors with car salesman being one suggestion
- ***'It will prevent people from buying a car' - North***

**12) Provide a free Ferry Pass for persons aged 65 or over travelling between Trinidad and Tobago**

- All participants were aware of the proposal
- Strong support across all groups
- Senior citizens were the main benefactors though some groups said the age should be dropped to 60 years old

**13) Granting Trinidad and Tobago citizens who gain a first class Honours degree with a scholarship up to PhD level at any local or foreign institution of their choice**

- Just over half the participants across were aware of the proposal
- Strong support across all groups apart from East West where there was some support
- Some of the participants would benefit from the proposal but the key group was students
- ***'My kids would benefit' – North***

**14) Encouraging greater use of cleaner fuels such as Compressed Natural Gas in vehicles**

- Mixed awareness in the proposal, though all of East/West respondents were aware
- Some strong support for the proposal stating that it is cost effective and would be less harsh on the environment
- Some strong opposition in Central and South groups
- ***'Will there be enough gas stations?' – North***

**15) Close down the casino gambling industry within the next five years**

- Most participants across all groups were aware of the proposal
- Complete support of the proposal in the North group
- ***'There would be no more money laundering' – North***
- Strong opposition across the other groups
- Participants were concerned that it would create unemployment and take away a way for them to relax