

MEDIA RELEASE

Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago Signs Agreement with the U.S. Embassy on SAFE Project

The Judiciary of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has signed a Project Implementation Letter (PIL) with the United States (U.S.) Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago giving effect to the **S.A.F.E. Initiative**; a collaborative effort geared towards outfitting the Courts with information and tools to assist Litigants in Person (LIPs) through the judicial process.

The *Securing Access, Fairness & Efficiency Initiative* (SAFE), a subproject of the Caribbean Anti-Crime Project (CAC), seeks to support the Magistrates' Courts and High Courts in the Caribbean to more effectively serve the significant number of Litigants in Person (LIPs). Litigants in Person (LIPs), also referred to as self-represented litigants or pro sé litigants, are those court customers who represent themselves before the courts without an attorney or legal representative, often times because they cannot afford legal representation.

The International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs Section (INL) of the U.S. Embassy in Trinidad and Tobago and its project implementer, the National Centre for State Courts (NCSC), will work closely with representatives of the Judiciary of Trinidad and Tobago to identify common challenges associated with LIPs that may result in case backlogs, delays in adjudication and diminished public confidence in the justice system.

Representatives of both organisations convened at the Hall of Justice yesterday, Tuesday 19th July 2022, for the signing of the PIL. The Honourable the Chief Justice Mr Justice Ivor Archie, O.R.T.T. signed the agreement on behalf of the Judiciary, while Chargé d' Affaires, Shante Moore signed on behalf of the U.S. Embassy.

The SAFE Project will be formally launched in the upcoming weeks.

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