



THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

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Office of the Attorney General
AGLA Tower, Government Plaza,
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19th January 2022

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED FIREWORKS BILL

The Trinidad and Tobago Field Naturalists' Club (TTFNC) commends the Office of the Attorney General and Ministry of Legal Affairs for its willingness to engage the public on the Law Reform Commission proposed legislation on the problem of unrestrained firework use in Trinidad and Tobago.

We believe that it would be difficult for the proposed legislation to achieve the intended results as it would be entirely dependent on enforcement. Enforcement of the existing Summary Offences Act has not worked and there is no reason to believe that it would work for the "Fireworks Bill" either.

To resolve this problem, we believe it will be far more effective to only allow the use of low noise fireworks.

Controlling the type of fireworks allowed into the country is far easier to administer as it could be done by changing the laws with respect to importation and enforced at the point of entry (and again at the retail level for imports that slip "under the radar"). Trying to address the fireworks issue by only restricting the period of use or prescribed zones is open to abuse and will require the dedication of limited police resources.

Restricting sales to only low noise fireworks is in keeping with Model A of the Law Reform Commission as it would still support the fireworks industry.

To this end, the TTFNC recommends that the proposed legislation be amended to permit only the importation and use of low noise fireworks by the public.

ABOUT THE T&T FIELD NATURALISTS' CLUB

The Trinidad & Tobago Field Naturalists' Club, a society for the study of natural history, is one of the oldest clubs existing in Trinidad and Tobago, having being founded on 10th July 1891. The Club is a volunteer, non-profit organization. Its main objectives are to bring together persons interested in the study of natural history, the diffusion of knowledge thereof and the conservation of nature and natural resources.

Feel free to contact me if you have any queries

Yours Respectfully,

Kris Sookdeo
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