



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Justice

Minister of Justice Meets with Environmental Management Authority and Environmental Commission to Advance Amendments to the Environmental Management Act.

MEDIA RELEASE

February 20, 2026

The Honourable Devesh Maharaj MP, Minister of Justice and Minister in the Office of the Attorney General chaired a meeting with representatives of the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) and the Environmental Commission of Trinidad and Tobago (the Commission) to discuss the relationship between the Commission and the Authority.

The meeting focused on strengthening the existing legislative framework to ensure that environmental governance in Trinidad and Tobago is modern, responsive, and firmly grounded in the principles of environmental justice. During the course of the meeting, there were certain suggested amendments to the parent Environmental Management Act.

The proposed amendments are intended to enhance the effectiveness of the Act, improve regulatory clarity, and ensure that environmental protection mechanisms remain robust and equitable in the face of emerging environmental and climate-related challenges. Central to the reform process will be a programme of public consultation- allowing citizens, civil society organisations, industry stakeholders, and community groups to participate meaningfully in shaping the updated legislative framework.

Minister Maharaj underscored that the revision of the Act represents more than a technical legislative exercise. Minister Maharaj stated:

“The proposed amendments to the Environmental Management Act are in furtherance of environmental justice. They are designed to ensure that all citizens—regardless of community, socio-economic status, or geographic location—are afforded equal protection under our environmental laws and meaningful opportunities to be heard in decisions that affect their environment and quality of life.”

Environmental justice seeks to guarantee the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. It ensures that no group bears a disproportionate share of negative environmental consequences resulting from industrial, governmental, or commercial operations, and that all communities have access to a healthy, safe, and sustainable environment.



MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

