



## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO – July 2021

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### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

#### Property Tax still on the table

Property Tax is still on the table despite widespread unemployment and the national shutdown.

Prime Minister Dr Keith Rowley was asked about the tax at the opening of the Carenage Police Station yesterday.

“It is not a new tax and there’s never a right time for a tax to be collected,” Rowley said.

He said back when oil was \$100 a barrel, there were people who politicised the collection of land and building taxes.

“There is no better time to be frugal than in a period of difficulty,” he said.

Rowley said people were getting “a benefit” from the State and were required to make a “small contribution”.

“You have no entitlement to not doing it because you have other priorities to suit your pleasure,” he said.

The Property Tax, Rowley said, was still being “worked on”. It was stymied when the Opposition United National Congress took the issue up with the courts and the courts laid down certain conditions which are “still being met”.

“That tax forms the underpinning of the Local Government Reform,” he said.

Rowley said that once the Local Government reform could access that money collected there would be “light-years in improvement” in Local Government.

Rowley said that poorer people or those living in smaller houses that do not attract a large tax should not be bothered with property taxes.

“What is your problem with property tax?”

If someone earns up to \$72,000 a year they have no tax to pay.

### International Property Tax Institute

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“So don’t drink bush tea for others people fever, you are allowing people to escape responsibility on your behalf,” he said.

### **International Property Tax Institute**

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