



DEVELOPING SPACES  
FOR BUSINESS TO GROW

## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **Setting the Record Straight**

#### **Illegal Occupation of Lands at e Teck's Phoenix Park Industrial Estate**

Evolving TeckNologies and Enterprise Development Company (e Teck) has noted with concern the allegations made by certain persons with respect to the occupation of certain lands at e Teck's Phoenix Park Industrial Estate ("the Estate") in the local media.

e Teck wishes to notify the public of the following facts as a matter of public record:

(i.) In June 2018 e Teck was granted title to 109 acres at Phoenix Park by the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. e Teck was mandated by its line Ministry, the Ministry of Trade and Industry to plan, design and construct a modern, state of the art Light Industrial Estate ("the Project") to support the Government of Trinidad and Tobago's economic diversification efforts. The Project is expected to be completed in the first Quarter (Q1) of 2022 and on completion; there will be a total of seventy-eight (78) leasable land lots.

(ii.) In March 2018 e Teck's survey assessment and topographical mapping exercises of the Estate identified six (6) structures along with crops located in the South-Western side of the Estate, which occupied 2.6 acres of the site, a location critical for the construction of the Estate's utility corridor and roadway.

(iii.) Further investigations revealed that these structures and crops belonged to six (6) persons. e Teck began engaging five (5) of the six (6) persons with the intent to ascertain their status and interest in the occupied area. One (1) person could not be located despite many efforts. e Teck requested the five (5) persons to provide documentation or evidence as to their status and title to the occupied area. The persons did not present e Teck with any such documentation or evidence.

(iv.) e Teck held stakeholder engagement meetings with the fence-line residents and key stakeholders of the Project on January 31, 2019 and February 19, 2019. At these meetings, the findings of e Teck's investigations regarding the illegal occupation of the site were presented and discussed with the objective of an amicable and transparent resolution.

(v.) On March 09, 2020 e Teck received a letter from the Member of Parliament (MP) for Couva South with subject "Urgent request for Information in relation to the development of lands in the vicinity of WASA substation, Savonetta." e Teck provided a detailed written response on the issues raised on March 19, 2020.

(vi.) In February 2021 e Teck continued its efforts in engaging and collaborating with the five (5) persons who agreed to have separate independent assessments of their structures and crops and they were invited to witness both exercises.

(vii.) On March 01, 2021 and March 05, 2021 e Teck again in the interest of seeking an amicable resolution to this matter, met with the five (5) persons and requested them to peaceably vacate the affected area. Each of the five (5) persons was offered reasonable compensation for their structures and crops based on the independent assessments completed. One (1) person accepted the offer and vacated the area occupied.

(viii.) In April 2021 e Teck commissioned a Photogrammetric Survey Report of the Estate to confirm whether there was any indication of occupation on the Estate by the said five (5) persons. This report confirmed that no such occupation existed prior to 2014.

(ix.) e Teck, on the advice of its Attorneys erected notices during the period April 2021 – May 2021 on the affected areas requesting the remaining four (4) persons to vacate within fourteen (14) days.

(x.) During the period March–June 2021 Mrs. Agnes Warner and Ms. Carolyn McInroy engaged Attorneys separately who communicated with e Teck on the issues. As a result of the exchange of correspondence with the Attorneys, Ms. Agnes Warner and Ms. Carolyn McInroy withdrew from the process.

e Teck stands committed to ensure the continuity of the construction of the Phoenix Park Industrial Estate, a critical project to stimulate economic development and further diversification efforts in Trinidad and Tobago. The PPIE will create significant employment opportunities and directly employ over 4,500 persons once operational. A total of one hundred and ninety-eight persons (198) are currently employed at the Estate.

e Teck continues to be committed to the highest standard of accountability and transparency in the discharge of its duties and fulfilment of its mandate.



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