

2026 July 17

Invitation to Participate in a Hybrid Event
Citizens' Rights Forum
Saturday July 25th, 2026
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm
In Person – Cipriani College of Labour and Co-operative Studies
Online – Via Zoom

Fellow Citizens,

You and/or your organisation are invited to participate in the Forum on the theme - ***“Citizens’ Rights: Freedom of Expression, Assembly and Protest in the SoE”***. This Forum offers a vital space for reflection and dialogue, where we can collectively examine these issues and chart a way forward. Joining us is Mr. Nizam Mohammed, an experienced attorney and former Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The following key areas will guide the conversation:

1. **Framing Citizens’ Rights** – A brief overview of fundamental rights and their role in sustaining democratic life.
2. **Context During SoE** – How freedoms of expression, assembly, and protest are shaped, challenged, or curtailed under a State of Emergency.
3. **Precedents Set** – Examining protest limitations, Preventive Detention Orders (PDOs), and other examples of how legal precedents impact civic space.
4. **Post-SoE Outlook** – What comes next, and how we can reaffirm collective solidarity, rebuild trust, and strengthen protections for citizens’ rights.

Please RSVP for in-person or virtual attendance:

<https://forms.gle/BoWVWBjVo4pMYJHY9>

We are sure that you will find this Forum of great value at this time when so many citizens are unsure of their rights; feel intimidated to speak out; or refrain from taking action on issues affecting them. At this time let us recall the words of Dr. Eric Williams in his address to this country on August 31st 1962 when we became an independent nation.

“Democracy, finally, rests on a higher power than Parliament. It rests on an informed and cultivated and alert public opinion. The Members of Parliament are only representatives of the

citizens. They cannot represent apathy and indifference. They can play the part allotted to them only if they represent intelligence and public spiritness.

Nothing has so demonstrated ...the capacity of the People of Trinidad and Tobago than their remarkable interest in the public affairs. The development and expansion of that interest is the joint responsibility of the Government, the Parliament, the political parties and relevant civic organisations."

The People's Roundtable is fulfilling its responsibility as a grouping of civic organisations. We look forward to you as citizens and/or as representatives of civic organisations to join us in ensuring that we have "*an informed and cultivated and alert public opinion*" upon which our democracy depends.

Yours Truly,

David Abdulah
Convenor
The People's Roundtable