



# Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

#5, Eighth Avenue Extension, off Twelfth Street, Barataria  
Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

Telephone: (868) 675-8288; (868) 221-8288; (868) 222-8288  
Fax: (868) 674-1055

Website: [www.tatt.org.tt](http://www.tatt.org.tt)  
E-mail: [info@tatt.org.tt](mailto:info@tatt.org.tt)

Friday, May 1, 2020

# Media Release

## **TATT Committed to ensuring IPR compliance in the Telecommunications and Broadcasting Industry**

The Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) notes that Trinidad and Tobago was listed in the watch list of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) 301 Report for 2020.

The USTR Trade 301 Report reflects the outcome of a Congressionally-mandated annual review of the global state of intellectual property rights (IPR) protection and enforcement.

The 2020 report notes that TATT's action with regard to IPR enforcement had stalled since 2016 and that we had exercised forbearance on enforcement against operators that continue to retransmit U.S. over-the-air broadcast signals without authorization amongst others.

TATT's decision to remove forbearance on the transmission of these stations by December 31, 2019, was in furtherance of IPR compliance. However, further forbearance was granted at the request of broadcasters. TATT considered that the request would have given the broadcasters a reasonable opportunity to resolve the issue or seek alternate channels to replace those to be removed.

The further extension of that forbearance in March 2020 arose as a result of the unprecedented circumstances arising out of the Covid-19 pandemic. We considered the extension of the forbearance as being necessary to keep available all sources of reliable news and information available to the public. It would not have been prudent, in the prevailing circumstances, to have terminated that forbearance.

TATT stresses that it takes intellectual property rights seriously and has always ensured compliance with intellectual property rights by its broadcasters.

We also continue to be one of the more proactive telecommunications regulators in the region that ensures local broadcasters are compliant with their obligations not to infringe intellectual property rights.

TATT conducts routine audits of all subscription cable TV broadcasters to ensure that they are only transmitting stations and programmes that they have the right to transmit.

We have taken legal action, in the past, against broadcasters for infringing intellectual property rights. It is for this reason that the broadcasting industry in Trinidad and Tobago is considered to be one of, if not the most compliant in the region. As was noted in the 301 report, this has earned us the respect of the United States Trade representative for our IPR enforcement actions notwithstanding the issue of the broadcast of these network stations.

TATT will continue to work with USTR on matters relating to IPR compliance in our sector.

~~~~End~~~