



MATT Membership Who can & how to Join?

Who can be a member of MATT?

Under MATT's constitution, you can be a full member if you have at least three years of experience at a media house or you devote most of your time to and/or earn a major part of your income from journalism.

You can be a probationary member if you have less than three years in the profession.

People who work in communications, advertising and related fields can be admitted as associate members (but can't vote in MATT elections).

Why should I join MATT now?

Unity is strength, and the more members MATT has, the more influence it has on decision-makers and public opinion.

The interim executive headed by a former president of the organisation, Dale Enoch, has a mandate to oversee elections for a new executive, due in March.

So this is your opportunity to get involved and have a say in the direction MATT takes and what it does, or to be on the executive yourself.



*Promoting the development
of journalism*

**MATT is a professional association
which protects the Fourth Estate,
& is committed to retooling media
workers across platforms to thrive
in a digital age.**

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of journalism*

FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

What is MATT exactly? Is it a trade union?

No, it's a voluntary nonpolitical association of individual media practitioners/journalists that is over 30 years old. It is a fraternity of members of the profession.

MATT is going through the process of being registered as an NGO.





Introducing The Media Association of Trinidad and Tobago



what MATT is doing now and what we are still trying to achieve

Its election time and the composition of the Interim Executive

What does MATT do? Why is it important?

MATT is the watchdog that defends press freedom. The media are often called the “fourth estate” (that is, after the three arms of government—the executive, the legislature and the judiciary).

Independent journalism advocates on behalf of citizens to help ensure politicians and institutions do not abuse their power, are accountable and transparent and act in the people’s interest. The media also speak for the voiceless and strengthen democracy.

MATT works to safeguard the interests of media practitioners.

At the height of the pandemic, for instance, MATT successfully lobbied the ministries of Health and Communications for more equitable inclusion for media houses at the daily Health Ministry virtual media conferences.

MATT is also working to get the Government to address legal issues that affect the media adversely in legislation such as the Data Protection Act and the Cyber Crime Bill.



As well as addressing issues that affect the profession as a whole, MATT works to strengthen links with institutions and associations (such as the law and medical associations) and offers networking opportunities among members of the profession.

MATT also makes the membership aware of and advocates for training and educational opportunities both locally and overseas.

It also promotes the professional development of media practitioners through seminars and training sessions.

The previous executive also, among other things, organised virtual seminars on issues that included media law, led by High Court judge Justice Kathy Ann Waterman-Latchoo, Covid-19 information from the Medical Association, and steps members can take to deal with the stress of the job, led by psychiatrist Prof Gerard Hutchinson.



LIVE REPORT

Who’s in charge of MATT?

MATT is run by an executive elected by the membership every two years.

Occasionally, the executive also sets up sub-committees of members to deal with particular issues or events.

The current, interim executive, installed in early December, comprises Dale Enoch (President), Kandace Jackson (VP), Mark Lyndersay (Treasurer), Phillip Matheson (Secretary), Gregory McBurnie (Assistant Secretary) and Andrew Gioannetti and Robert Taylor (Floor Members.)

Judy Raymond and Ira Mathur were appointed trustees in an advisory role.

Does MATT have disciplinary or regulatory powers?

No. There’s a Media Complaints Council run by the TT Publishers and Broadcasters Association whose mandate is to deal with issues such as complaints from the public and whose rulings media houses have agreed to abide by.

