

SUMMARY

IN THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE

Claim No. CV 2025-

BETWEEN

EASTMAN ENTERPRISE LTD

APPLICANT/CLAIMANT

AND

THE CEPEP COMPANY LIMITED

RESPONDENT/DEFENDANT

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

📄 Summary: **EEL v CEPEP**

Eastman Enterprise Ltd (EEL) has filed a lawsuit against The CEPEP Company Limited (CEPEP) in the High Court of Trinidad and Tobago, challenging the **termination of a long-standing contract** for environmental and waste management services.

📖 Background

- * The original contract was signed in **2018**, with subsequent renewals.
- * The latest **addendum in April 2025** extended the agreement to **September 2029**.
- * On **June 27, 2025**, CEPEP terminated the contract without formal notice, which EEL claims **breached contractual terms**.

📌 EEL's Position

- * EEL insists it met all performance expectations and maintained full compliance.
- * The abrupt termination threatens jobs for **thousands of vulnerable workers** supported under the program.
- * EEL is requesting:
 - * An **interim injunction** to stop CEPEP from assigning the contract to others.
 - * A **permanent injunction**, along with legal costs and any other relief deemed fair by the court.
- * EEL's lawyers have also **undertaken to compensate CEPEP** for damages if the injunction proves unwarranted.

⚖️ CEPEP's Response

- * CEPEP challenges the **validity of the April 2025 addendum**, citing:
 - * Its **timing** — signed just 5 days before national elections**.
 - * Lack of **public tender**, suggesting potential **political interference**.
- * CEPEP implies the extension may not have followed standard procurement protocols, raising concerns over **transparency** and **accountability**.

📁 Supporting Documentation

- * EEL has submitted ****Standing Finance Committee Reports**** to show the government had budgeted for contractor payments until at least ****September 2025****.
- * They argue this proves CEPEP's action contradicts its mandate to support underprivileged communities.

⚖️ Broader Implications

This case surfaces major questions about:

- * ****Contract law and enforcement****
- * ****Public procurement standards****
- * The potential ****politicization of state contracts****
- * ****Socioeconomic consequences**** of sudden service termination

🚦 Next Legal Steps

The case is moving through several key procedural stages:

1. 📅 ****Court Hearing****

A formal hearing will be set by the ****High Court Registry**** to evaluate EEL's request for an interim injunction. Both parties will present initial arguments and documentation.

2. 📄 ****Service of Documents****

Court filings will be ****officially served**** to CEPEP via:

- * The ****Registrar of the High Court****
- * CEPEP's registered office in ****Tunapuna****

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3. 📝 **CEPEP's Legal Response

CEPEP will formally submit its **defense**, likely reinforcing its position about:

- * The **timing and validity** of the contract extension
- * Lack of documentation or evidence of due process

4. 📁 **Evidence Submission

Both parties must provide:

- * Original and amended contracts
- * Correspondence
- * Performance evaluations
- * Any relevant **government or financial documents**

This will help the court assess the strength of the claims on both sides.

5. ⚖️ **Judge's Decision on Injunction

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The Court will determine whether EEL meets the legal standard for an ****interim injunction****:

- * ✅ If granted: CEPEP cannot assign or replace EEL's role pending trial.
- * ❌ If denied: CEPEP may proceed with contract reassignment.

6. 👤 ****Full Trial (if unresolved)****

Should mediation or early resolution fail, the matter will proceed to a ****full trial****, which may include:

- * Legal arguments
- * Witness testimony
- * Financial evidence
- * Final judicial ruling

7. 🎯 ****Potential Outcomes****

* ****EEL wins****:

- * Contract may be ****reinstated****
- * CEPEP could be liable for ****damages and legal costs****

* ****CEPEP wins****:

- * Termination stands
- * Case is dismissed

* ****Wider consequences****:

- * Public scrutiny of ****contracting processes****
- * Review of ****CEPEP governance and oversight****
- * Precedent-setting for future ****state procurement disputes****

🔍 Final Note

This case represents far more than a business dispute — it's a legal battle that touches on governance, public accountability, and socioeconomic impact. The Court's decisions could influence ****how public contracts are structured, extended, and terminated**** in politically sensitive times.