



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Finance

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Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CPO to meet with PSA to discuss Allowances

After the referral of the dispute between the Chief Personnel Officer (CPO) and the Public Services Association (PSA) on revised salaries and Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) for officers of the Civil Service and Statutory Authorities subject to the Statutory Authorities Act, Chap. 24:01 for the period January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2010, the parties appeared before the Special Tribunal on March 24, 2011 for a pre-trial hearing. The Tribunal consists of His Honour Mr. Vernon Ashby, Chairman, Essential Services Division, Her Honour Ms. Victoria Harragin and Her Honour Ms. Judy Gulbance. The purpose of that pre-trial hearing was to allow the parties to express their views as to the periods which would reasonably be necessary to present their cases and to receive relevant directions from the Tribunal.

At the hearing, a number of issues were raised, including the question of the scope of the dispute before the Tribunal. In this regard, the Chairman noted that the dispute currently treated with salaries and COLA only. While he acknowledged that the dispute referred by the Minister of Finance was in fact properly before the Tribunal, he raised the question of the practicality of treating with salaries and COLA when other issues which had not been referred may also be in dispute.

The parties clarified that the matter of allowances had not been the subject of discussion and therefore, it was not possible to declare that there existed a dispute on those issues. The CPO

indicated that she was amenable to the PSA's suggestion that the parties meet on those matters on which discussions had not yet been held.

It was therefore agreed that the CPO and the PSA would meet to determine the status of other terms and conditions of employment with a view to indicating to the Tribunal, which other issues were or were not in dispute. The CPO agreed with the timeframe proposed by the PSA and a date was set for the Tribunal to be reconvened on May 23, 2011. At that time, further directions would be given to the parties.

While the matter of salaries and COLA remains before the Special Tribunal for determination, the CPO and the PSA are to meet on a mutually convenient date to begin discussions on allowances payable to officers of the Civil Service and Statutory Authorities.

The End

Beverly Foster
Communications Manager
Tel: 681-4761