



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

## **MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

30<sup>th</sup> September, 2015

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

#### **GATE funding for Medical Students at UWI**

The Hon. Minister of Finance, Colm Imbert has considered the plight of Trinidad and Tobago medical students, who have been accepted to study at the Mona (Jamaica) and Cave Hill (Barbados) Campuses of the University of the West Indies (UWI), but are without Government Assistance for Tuition Expenses (GATE) funding.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has discovered that seventy-two (72) students were accepted (to study medicine) at the Mona Campus for the 2015/16 academic year. However, only thirty-nine (39) were approved for GATE by the previous administration, leaving thirty-three (33) medical students unfunded.

Further to this, the Hon. Minister was advised that at the Cave Hill Campus, fifty-four (54) medical students were accepted for the 2015/16 academic year, but only twenty (20) were approved for funding by the previous administration, leaving a further thirty-four (34) medical students unfunded.

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As a consequence, a total of sixty-seven (67) medical students at the Mona and Cave Hill Campuses are without GATE funding at this time.

In view of the fact that it is a Manifesto Pledge of the People's National Movement Government that we do all that we can to increase the number of trained Medical Professionals in Trinidad and Tobago, the Minister of Finance has instructed that funds be made available to cover the tuition fees for these 67 medical students. The total cost for the 2015/16 academic year has been estimated at \$12.8 M TT.

The affected students and/or their parents may contact the Ministry of Education for further details.

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