



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

31st October, 2016

PRESS RELEASE

FALSE AND MISLEADING EXPRESS ARTICLE ON NLCB

The Minister of Finance wishes to categorically refute an allegation made in an article published in the Sunday Express of October 30, 2016, entitled "*NLCB keeping eye on 10-year GTECH deal*" where it was stated that Dr. the Hon. Keith Rowley, Prime Minister, advised the Hon. Colm Imbert, Minister of Finance, to not pay Media 21 for services rendered to the National Lotteries Control Board, through GTECH or otherwise, pending a review of the contract.

This story is simply untrue.

In the first instance, the Minister of Finance does not make payments to any provider of services to the NLCB, because NLCB is a statutory body that makes its own payments in accordance with its own procedures.

Secondly, the Prime Minister gave no instructions or advice to the Minister of Finance about this or any other matter regarding contracts or payments at NLCB. This false allegation is ridiculous and inexcusable.

Finally, the assertion in the article that efforts to get a comment from the Minister of Finance on this matter were unsuccessful is not acceptable since the Express newsroom has had the Minister's private cell phone number for years, which it uses to contact the Minister on a regular basis.

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