



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

17th December, 2010

Attn: All Editors

MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Government Inter Ministerial Committee meets Cane Farmers Association on EU Grant

A five member Government Inter Ministerial Committee comprising of Finance Minister Winston Dookeran, Minister Food Production, Land and Marine Affairs, Vasant Bharath, Minister of Legal Affairs, Prakash Ramadhar, Minister of Science, Tertiary and Technology, Fazal Karim, and Minister of Tobago Development , Vernella Toppin met with members of the Sugar Cane Farmers Association of Trinidad and Tobago (CFATT) today (Friday 13th, 2010) to discuss the Government's position on a proposed Euro \$41 million grant given by the European Union (EU) to assist the Government in its restructuring programme for the Sugar Industry.

President of the Cane Farmers Association Seukeran Tambie said that his association had three critical issues which needed to be addressed, which were, compensation, diversification of the industry and socio-economic support for the displaced farmers.

Chairman of the Government Inter Ministerial Committee, Finance Minister Winston Dookeran gave the assurance that Government is committed to working closely with the association in resolving these issues while strategizing the best way forward with the cane farming community.

Minister of Science, Tertiary and Technology, Fazal Karim also indicated that his Ministry through the National Training Agency (NTA) would work together with the CFATT in developing a needs assessment programme and the marketability of its former employees in trying to alleviate some of their social issues.

A follow up meeting with both the Government Inter- Ministerial Committee and CFATT on issues arising out of today's meeting is expected to take place early in 2011.

End

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