



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Finance and the Economy

Media Release

Attention All Editors

For Immediate Release

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Board of Inland Revenue employees to be relocated....

Board of Inland Revenue employees currently located at the VAT Office on St Vincent Street Port of Spain will be relocated, the Finance and the Economy Minister, Larry Howai said today.

The Minister notes the complaints levelled by the PSA but indicated that a decision had been previously taken to relocate these employees to the Ministry of Finance and the Economy's head office on Independence Square Port of Spain as part of the decision to rationalise the operations and reduce the rental expenses being incurred by the Ministry. The renovations to accommodate the personnel from the VAT Office started some weeks ago and are now complete.

“Starting from next week, there will be no Ministry of Finance and the Economy employees in the VAT Building. The VAT office will be moved to the Ministry's head office.”

Regarding the issues raised by the PSA about Trinidad House, Minister Howai stated that “The Ministry of Finance and the Economy commissioned the Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI) to conduct an air quality assessment on the sixth floor of the Trinidad House after receiving several complaints of respiratory irritations, nausea and frequent mal odours from staff members who occupy the work area.”

In a report dated January 21 2014, CARIRI advised that based on the total fungal count, the indoor to outdoor ratio and the significant fungal types collected, it shows that there is no significant amplification of mould in the indoor area assessed and it therefore suggests that there is no fungal contamination in the building, at the time of sampling.

The Minister further added, “however, the Ministry of Finance and the Economy has offered and made provisions for the employees located in the Trinidad House to undertake an executive medical at the Mount Hope Medical Sciences Complex, if they so wish.”

A copy of the CARIRI report was given to the Public Services Association.

While noting that the employees at the Inland Revenue Department can expect to be relocated to the Inland Revenue Tower by March 2015, as part of the cost reduction and ongoing rationalisation of the BIR's operations, the Minister also indicated that the outfitting of the Customs & Excise Building is also proceeding according to schedule and is expected to be completed for occupation by September 2014.