



Republic of Trinidad & Tobago



Participants of one of the training sessions, Cheque Generation and Cheque Security training. Seated in the front are presenters Ms. Jocelyn Vialmosa, (Ag.) Director, Financial Management (left) and Ms. Vashiti Maharaj, (Ag.) Senior Treasury Accountant (right), Treasury Division.

Treasury Division Facilitates Public Financial Management Training for Government Officials

In an effort to provide greater accountability, transparency and integrity in the management of public finances, the Treasury Division embarked on a series of training sessions for officials in government Ministries and agencies on accounting and financial management systems and procedures.

The sessions, which took place between the months of May and August were aimed at:

- *Providing a more controlled method of reporting to the Auditor General's Office and the Public Accounts Committee by highlighting areas of concern for Permanent Secretaries, Deputy Permanent Secretaries and other Accounting Officers.*
- *Providing guidelines to ensure accurate and timely submission of annual Appropriation Accounts to the Auditor General by reviewing the "Expenditure and Reconciliation System" and all the steps involved in the reconciliation process.*
- *Providing guidelines on "Cheque Generation and Security" to ensure adequate security of both blank and printed cheques in the possession of government Ministries and departments by providing guidance to Heads of accounting units on the measures and procedures to be followed in respect of the preparation of cheques.*

All sessions were interactive and many issues relating to the respective Ministries and Agencies were raised and addressed. Participants expressed their gratitude for the knowledge and skills shared in each of the training sessions. The Treasury Division thanks everyone who participated as they remain committed to developing the knowledge base and skills set of all accounting personnel in the public service.





Canadian Financial Intelligence Unit Facilitates Workshop In Trinidad

Representatives of the Financial Transactions and Report Analysis Centre of Canada (FINTRAC) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) collaborated with the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (FIUTT) to conduct a five day mentoring workshop in Port of Spain, earlier this year. The objective was to assist staff of the FIUTT in Information Technology Solutions and to provide Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter Financing of Terrorism (CFT) strategies and experience from the Canadian perspective which can be beneficial to Trinidad and Tobago.



▲ Participants attending the Canadian FIU (FINTRAC) facilitated workshop in Port of Spain. Front row: 4th from left FIU Director, Ms Susan Francois and FIU Deputy Director, Mr Nigel Stoddard 4th from right.

Participants of the workshop included Intelligence Analysts from the FIUTT and Investigators from the Financial Investigations Branch, Anti-Corruption Investigations Bureau, Criminal Gang and Intelligence Unit, Organised Crime, Narcotics and Firearms Bureau, Special Branch, Fraud Squad, Customs and Excise and Board of Inland Revenue. In 2014, participants from the FIUTT and the Jamaican Financial Investigations Division attended a similar workshop in Ottawa hosted by FINTRAC. Based on the success of that workshop FINTRAC made a commitment to offer further technical and mentoring assistance to Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica.

Receivers Of Government Revenue Get AML/CFT FIU Training

The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (“the FIU”) recently hosted an Anti-Money Laundering (AML)/-Combating the Financing of Terrorism (CFT) Awareness Session for over 54 Receivers of Government Revenue, Permanent Secretaries and other Senior Officers in the Public Service. The session was held in the NALIS AV Room, Port of Spain. The FIU sought to sensitise these Senior Government Officers about the Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism risks associated with the collection of revenue, in making payments to providers of goods and services and entry into contracts on behalf of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago. The discussions identified 2 recommendations to be implemented:

1. *To establish cash thresholds for revenue collection at Government offices and;*
2. *To implement effective customer due diligence in the award of Government contracts.*

Participants included Mr. Vishnu Dhanpaul, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and the Economy, Ms. Joan Mendez, Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, Mr. Ammar Samaroo, Comptroller of Customs and Excise Division and other Senior Government Officers.

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Customs and Excise Division gets a new home

Thirty-six years after its original home was destroyed by fire, the Customs and Excise Division finally has a place to call its own. The Division has relocated to the Customs House, Government Campus Plaza, Ajax Street, Port of Spain. The move which was done on a phased basis, began on March 20, 2015 and was completed on April 6, 2015. Construction of the new building began in 2004 and was completed in 2008. Staff and visitors can enjoy the new building that comprises 1.3 million square feet of office space and features ten (10) floors which contain executive offices, a library, cafeteria, conference/break rooms, storage areas, meeting rooms and work stations. Approximately 200 members of staff are now occupying the new premises.

Persons wishing to contact the Customs and Excise Division can do so via telephone number, 1 (868) 625-3311 or email, communicationsunit@customs.gov.tt



Training Room of the new Customs House



Office space for staff.



The new Customs House, located at the Government Campus Plaza.



Customs and Excise participates in TIC 2015

As part of its mandate to provide information and guidance to the local and foreign business community, the Customs and Excise Division took part in the 16th annual Trade and Investment Convention (TIC), hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association. The convention took place at the Centre of Excellence, Macoya from July 8 to 11, 2015. Based on this year's TIC theme, "Building Bridges, Connecting the World," Customs and Excise has been an ongoing presence at the event throughout its 16-year history.

The Trade and Investment Convention is an annual regional and international forum that serves to position Trinidad and Tobago as an attractive market to international investors as well as for those seeking to expand into the Caribbean.



Deonyse Pyle-Williams, Customs and Excise Officer advises a member of the public at the TIC 2015.





Introducing New Senior Management



MRS. COOMARIE GOOLABSINGH

Acting Director, Human Resources

Mrs. Coomarie Goolabsingh joined the Ministry of Finance and the Economy (MoFE) on April 1st 2015 where she fills the position of Director, Human Resources (Ag). Before joining the Ministry, Mrs. Goolabsingh served as the Senior Human Resource Advisor/Secretary to the Police Service Commission. Mrs. Goolabsingh holds a BA in Human Resource Management and has over thirty (30) years public service experience. Her extensive knowledge in human resource management and public administration will surely be put to good use at the MoFE. One of six siblings, Mrs. Goolabsingh is extremely family oriented and her advice to staff would be to strive for the ideal work-life balance. Mrs. Goolabsingh has two children

and enjoys a good game of cards or scrabble. Her favourite quote is by A.R. Rahman.... "Each one of us has our own evolution of life, and each one of us goes through different tests which are unique and challenging. But certain things are common. And we do learn things from each other's experiences. On a spiritual journey, we all have the same destination."

Welcome Mrs. Goolabsingh!



MS. CATHERINE LABAN

Comptroller of Accounts, Treasury Division

Ms. Catherine Laban joined the public service in October 1990 as a temporary Clerk I, Treasury Division. In January 2015, a mere twenty-five (25) years later she was appointed the youngest Comptroller of Accounts (CoA) in Treasury's history. Always striving for success, she attained her ACCA qualifications and was placed in the professional stream at the Treasury Division soon afterwards. She also holds a Masters in Business Administration from the Herriot Watt University, Edinburgh Business School. An avid believer in health and fitness, she gets enjoyment from working out at the gym or taking a jog around a savannah. Having reached the top rung of the Treasury ladder she approaches her work with an open

mind and a positive attitude. "A challenge only becomes an obstacle when you bow to it", she says. With a supportive management team at her side she encourages open communication and teamwork which she believes are two key factors in achieving the strategic goals of the Treasury Division.

All the best in your new portfolio Ms. Laban!



MS. CHERYL-ANN CUMMINGS

Manager, Corporate Communications

Cheryl-Ann Cummings joined the MoFE family on 1st July, 2015. She is the holder of a MA Marketing (with Distinction) from the Arthur Lok Jack GSB (UWI), a BA in Business Administration from the Anglia Polytechnic University, London. She is also in possession of Diplomas in Marketing, Advertising, Public Relations from LCCI London as well as a Diploma in Tourism Management, UWI. Ms. Cummings has over twenty (20) years combined experience in both public and private sector organisations and served in various fields of business including, HR, General Administration and Accounting. Before joining the MoFE, she served in the field of corporate communications for over ten (10) years. When asked what she enjoys the most in life, she responded "travelling to international destinations, dining out,

hiking and having a good, hearty laugh with family and friends." Ms. Cummings is a dedicated employee who will continue to work with all to better serve the internal and external publics of the Ministry.

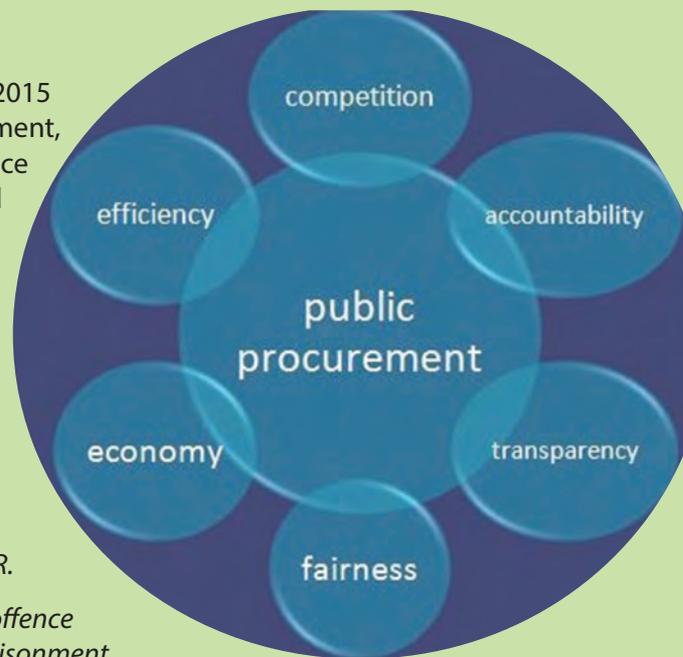
Welcome Ms. Cummings!



The Public Procurement Buzz

The Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act 1 of 2015 – assented to on January 14th 2015 - provides for public procurement, and for the retention and disposal of public property, in accordance with the principles of good governance. Its aim is to promote and enforce accountability, transparency, integrity and value for money in all public bodies. It also provides for the establishment of the Office of Procurement Regulation (OPR) and the repeal of the Central Tenders Board Act, Chap. 71:91.

- *The Act modernises public procurement management to address inefficiencies and consequential delays in delivery as well as perceptions of fraud and corruption.*
- *Suppliers and contractors will have the right to challenge and appeal a decision by way of an application for review by the OPR.*
- *Under the Act, contraventions of any regulation constitutes an offence and penalties for any offence can result in a hefty fine AND imprisonment.*



THE ACT AFFECTS YOU!

The Ministry of Finance and the Economy (MoFE) continues to work diligently towards its implementation and encourages all public procuring entities to become familiar with the contents of the Act. The successful administration of the Act by all public bodies will result in significant savings and ultimately a brighter future for Trinidad and Tobago.

Who constitutes a public body? Here's a list:

- (a) *the Office of the President;*
- (b) *the Parliament;*
- (c) *the Judiciary;*
- (d) *a Ministry or a department or division of a Ministry;*
- (e) *the Tobago House of Assembly, or a division of the Tobago House of Assembly;*
- (f) *a Municipal Corporation established under the Municipal Corporations Act;*
- (g) *a Regional Health Authority established under the Regional Health Authorities Act;*
- (h) *a statutory body, responsibility for which is assigned to a Minister of Government;*
- (i) *a State-controlled enterprise;*
- (j) *a Service Commission established under the Constitution or other written law; or*
- (k) *a body corporate or unincorporated entity—*
 - (i) *in relation to any function which it exercises on behalf of the State; or*
 - (ii) *which is established by virtue of the President's prerogative, by a Minister of Government in his capacity as such or by another public authority; or*
 - (l) *a body corporate or unincorporated entity in relation to any function, project, scheme or arrangement which involves the use by it, of public money;*

Where can I get more information?

Visit www.finance.gov.tt for a copy of the Act or call 627-9700 ext.2805 or 2808 for further information. Subscribe to our website to receive automatic public procurement updates and information on upcoming public procurement workshops.





Inter-divisional Fun!!!!

As a prelude to the Sports and Family Day, the Finance Fitness Centre hosted an Interdivisional Fun Aerobic Burnout on Thursday 23rd July 2015 in the Basement of the Eric Williams Finance Building. The Treasury Division took home a whopping 40 points toward their overall Sports Day total. All participants received one month's free gym membership courtesy the Finance Fitness Centre.

Congratulations to all winners.

Here are the results:

MOST UNCOORDINATED:

- 1st Anika Baptiste *Central Tenders Board (Head Office)*
- 2nd Nekeisha Theroulde *Inland Revenue Division*
- 3rd Tianna Abdool *Treasury*

MOST ENERGETIC MALE:

- 1st Anderson Paul *Treasury*
- 2nd Alpha Toussiant *Treasury*
- 3rd Kwasi Tommy *Treasury*

HAD THE MOST FUN:

- 1st Escallier Devin *Treasury*
- 2nd Keasha Brown Hamil *Treasury*
- 3rd Chantel Smith *Inland Revenue Division*

MOST ENERGETIC FEMALE:

- 1st Halima Dansingh *Head Office*
- 2nd Leann Williams *Treasury*
- 3rd Corisse Thompson *Head Office*



Your health is your wealth.
Subscribe for email alerts today!!
It's simple. Email gym.finance@gov.tt for important gym updates.
The Finance Fitness Centre is open to all staff of the Ministry of Finance and the Economy and some Departments of the Ministry of Planning and Sustainable Development.





SPORTS AND FAMILY DAY 2015

Even the heavy rains could not halt the fun and activities that took place at the WASA Grounds in St. Joseph. The atmosphere was transformed into a realm of fun, food and lots of teamwork on Saturday June 25, 2015. Dressed in their team colours, Head Office (Teal), Inland Revenue Division (Red), Customs and Excise Division (orange) and Treasury Division (purple) the teams were pitted against each other in a battle of divisions. Ultimately the Inland Revenue Division conquered the Sports in its entirety with victories in the Dance Past and became overall champions. The Sports Day was filled with lots of families and smiling faces as children got their faces painted and adults enjoyed the ongoing games. Rodell or Ro'dey as he is better known, provided entertainment. In the end, the day proved to be a day filled with fun, victory and excitement. This year's Sports and Family can indeed be recalled as an unforgettable experience.



Dance Past Winners

- 1st Like a boss (Red)
- 2nd Purple Fusion (Purple)
- 3rd Budget Cutz = Party Done (Teal)

Overall Sports Day Winners

- 1st Like a Boss (Red)
- 2nd Budget Cutz = Party Done (Teal)
- 3rd Purple Fusion (Purple)
- 4th Customs Crew (Orange)

We extend congratulations to all winners and thank everyone for demonstrating true camaraderie!





Open Data Readiness Assessment in Trinidad and Tobago

The Ministry of Finance and the Economy has collaborated with the Ministry of Science and Technology and the World Bank to adopt an Open Data initiative for Trinidad and Tobago. The Open Data Initiative is part of the Government's National Broadband Plan for Development and aims to transform Trinidad and Tobago into a diversified, information and knowledge driven economy. Open Data is the idea that the Government should make available to others as much as possible the non-sensitive data which it collects in the course of its operations. The data would be available in "raw", machine-readable form for reuse for commercial or non-commercial purposes.



From left to right: Minister Indarsingh and Minister Griffith greet members of the World Bank team, Mr. Andrew Stott, Ms. Eva Clemente, Ms. Roza Vesileva and Ms. Ingrid Seerattan, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Science and Technology.

Earlier this year, consultants of the World Bank Group conducted an Open Data Readiness Assessment (ODRA) Study to determine this country's readiness for adopting an Open Data initiative. The study consisted of a series of interviews with key stakeholders such as officials from government ministries and agencies representing areas of health, national security, environment, economy, culture etc. Also participating were representatives of academia, civil societies, business groups, journalists and developers. The interviews covered the main themes of leadership, law, government institutions, management of data, demand for data, capabilities of business and civil society, finance and national IT infrastructure. Speaking at the presentation of the ODRA Report press conference on May 1st, 2015 at the

Ministry of Science and Technology, the Honourable Rudranath Indarsingh, Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and the Economy, indicated that an Open Data initiative for Trinidad and Tobago is "the stepping stone to our ultimate goal of being open, accountable and transparent in the public sector and in the delivery of public services". Further to this project, a regional conference entitled "Caribbean TIDE: Technology, Innovation and Digital Economy in the Caribbean" took place during the period August 25-27 2015.



Celebrating Cultures

"Our workforce and our entire economy are strongest when we embrace diversity to its fullest..." Thomas Perez.

Over the past months, the MoFE has joined with the National Community in celebrating both Eid-UI-Fitr and Emancipation Day. Functions to commemorate both occasions were held throughout the Divisions of the MoFE. Here are some of the celebrations that took place...

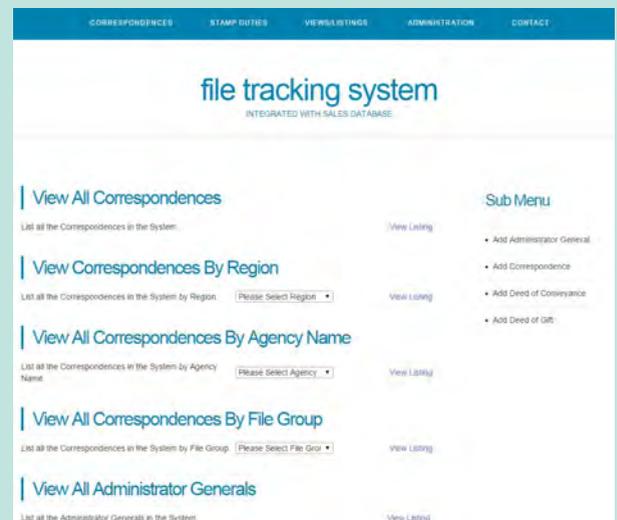


Keep in Touch with the Valuation Division

The Valuation Division provides Government and its agencies with Valuation and Land Economy advice and Technical Expertise in respect of real property transactions, real property taxation and land management matters. Over the past year the Valuation Division has embarked on a number of activities and projects to improve the overall functions of the Division.

VALUATION DIVISION ADOPTS AN ELECTRONIC FILING SYSTEM

In a move to improve the efficiency and timeliness of tracking files and correspondences, Mr. Ric Javed Ali, Commissioner of Valuation has led the implementation of an electronic record system for the Valuation Division. The process commenced in mid-2014, with a combined effort between a team of professionals from the Valuation Division and the Information Technology Unit of the Ministry of Finance and the Economy. A demo model was launched in January 2015 and was fully functional as at May 2015. As it stands, the system is being incrementally populated by manually entering each file, a process that is expected to continue throughout 2015 with the eventual goal of phasing out the existing paper based recording system.



FUELING OUR HUMAN RESOURCE

The Valuation Division recognizes the need to invest in its human resource capital. Presently, plans are underway to effect an internal training course targeting technical staff with the intention of preparing them for duties of a higher nature and readying them for supervisory duties. The Valuation Division has also initiated the process to fill its fifty (50) vacant, entry level technical positions, a step that surely would ready the Division to respond to the expected increased workload, with a return of some system of taxation of real property in Trinidad and Tobago. Recently, members of its Professional staff attained prestigious membership in the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) - the world's leading professional body for qualifications and standards in land, property and construction. The Valuation Division extends congratulations to all participants namely, Mr. Baldeo Ramoutar, Ms. Bhanmati Secharan and Ms. Dinelle Ramkoon.

Relocation of the Chaguanas Regional Office

The Valuation Division wishes to advise that the Chaguanas Regional Office formerly located at #4 Market Street Chaguanas, has been relocated and is presently functional from its new official location at #206 Caroni Savannah Road, Charlieville. The office can be contacted via telephone number, 1(868) 462-4577 or email, valdivchag@gov.tt.





Public Private Partnership Unit hosts training workshop for Government Officials

In an effort to deliver critical infrastructure and other high priority projects in a more effective and transparent manner, the Government is adopting a Public Private Partnership (PPP) modality. To ensure this process is executed efficiently, the PPP Unit of the Ministry of Finance and the Economy hosted a workshop to train government officials on the use of the PPP modality as an alternative to traditional procurement for the delivery of Public goods and services.



▲ Participants of the PPP modality training workshop.

Through the National PPP Policy that was approved by Cabinet, an institutional framework for the development and implementation of project through the PPP modality was established. A PPP Ministerial Committee was established to oversee the development and implementation of PPP projects. The PPP Unit was established in August 2011 and provides secretariat services to the PPP Ministerial Committee. The workshop and training which was held on May 13, 2015 was geared towards members of the Health and Education PPP Execution teams who are currently engaged in the implementation of two (2) PPP pilot projects in their respective sectors. The PPP pilot project in the health sector involves the establishment of two (2) diagnostic centres; while the education pilot project consists of the establishment of ten (10) primary schools and ten (10) Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Centres. The list of participants also included officials of the Tobago House of Assembly who are currently in the process of selecting a number of projects to be undertaken as PPP's. In addition, the Ministry of Finance and the Economy, who hosted the workshop fielded participants from the PPP Unit, Investments Division, Economic Management Division and the Strategic Management and Execution Office.



MoFE's Strategic Plan 2015-2020 is Complete

The Management and Staff of the Strategic Management Office (SMO) is pleased to announce the completion of the Strategic Plan for the Ministry of Finance and the Economy. The Strategic Plan was approved by Cabinet on March 26, 2015 and outlines the key areas of its mission by which the Ministry will be guided, and the strategies that will be employed to achieve its vision over the next five (5) years. The plan adopts an integrated approach to institutional strengthening and provides strategic direction for all personnel and the various Divisions and Agencies under the remit of the Ministry of Finance and the Economy.

Though an internal document, the Strategic Plan also intends to benefit our external stakeholders, since it will be used to restructure services, thereby gaining a more efficient use of resources and expanding our existing services. The SMO acknowledges all Divisions and contributors for their invaluable input and feedback during the development of the Plan. Members of staff wishing to access the Strategic Plan can do so via the Ministry's intranet portal.





US Internal Revenue Service Facilitates Training in Trinidad and Tobago

The Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (“the FIU”) in collaboration with the United States-Internal Revenue Service (US-IRS), Regional Office, Barbados, coordinated a three day training programme on Financial Investigations Techniques earlier this year. The Financial Investigations Techniques, training programme, was targeted to Law Enforcement Personnel and other stakeholders in the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) framework. Some of the very instructive topics covered over the intense three day period were:

- *Money laundering – Current trends*
- *Money laundering – Reporting Violations*
- *Terrorism Financing and*
- *An overview of Methods of Proof*

Participants included personnel from the FIU, Anti-Corruption Investigation Bureau, Office of the Director of Public Prosecution, the Financial Investigations Branch, Counter Trafficking Unit, Organised Crime, Narcotics and Firearms Bureau, Customs and Excise Division and Board of Inland Revenue.



▲ Participants who attended the Financial Investigations Techniques (FIT) training programme, held in Trinidad, facilitated by the United States-Internal Revenue Service (US-IRS), Regional Office, Barbados, in collaboration with the Financial Intelligence Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (“the FIU”).

This programme and other collaborations with the United States-Internal Revenue Service (US-IRS), Regional Office, in Barbados, are geared towards strengthening the Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism (AML/CFT) infrastructure in Trinidad and Tobago. The training was well received by the participants.



Introducing the GORTT Fleet Card Facility

The Treasury Division announces the introduction and implementation of a new Fleet Card Facility. This Facility will replace the credit arrangements afforded to Ministries and Departments for the procurement of fuel and lubricants for their respective vehicles.

The Fleet Card Facility allows Ministries/Departments to purchase fuel and lubricants from any service station outlet in Trinidad and Tobago with Linx or Pay-at-the-pump facilities by means of a debit card. The debit card will be coded to capture transaction details relating to the vehicle fleet of the specific Ministry/Department. Further, Ministries and Departments have been trained in the operation of the Facility and sensitization sessions have been held with NP and UNIPET Service Station networks.

Divisions within the Ministry of Finance and the Economy have been engaged in a pilot project for the use of the card. It is anticipated that the new Fleet Card Facility will be rolled out in time for the new financial year, 2015/2016.





INDEPENDENCE to REPUBLIC Word Search

As the Ministry of Finance and the Economy joins with the national community in celebrating our 53rd Independence Anniversary and our 39th year as a Republic, the Finance News invites you to participate in our following word search puzzle. Have fun!

P	A	T	R	I	O	T	I	C	W	E	N	R	E	J
R	E	Q	U	A	L	I	T	Y	B	I	H	T	I	P
P	M	R	X	R	E	Y	N	E	E	P	J	T	K	D
D	R	E	G	F	R	A	O	L	L	A	U	S	Z	Y
K	E	I	T	O	H	N	I	P	P	R	S	E	C	S
S	E	M	D	I	V	I	T	O	X	A	T	P	A	G
E	K	C	O	E	H	E	A	E	P	D	I	T	N	E
S	C	W	N	C	Z	W	R	P	M	E	C	E	Y	X
P	S	D	O	E	R	K	A	N	P	X	E	M	T	X
F	W	D	I	Y	D	A	L	Q	M	G	E	B	I	Q
I	V	L	T	T	N	N	C	F	J	E	U	E	N	W
R	L	I	A	I	A	K	E	Y	L	E	N	R	U	K
E	R	B	R	N	T	C	D	P	L	A	L	T	M	F
W	E	E	B	U	I	A	Z	Q	E	N	G	W	M	Q
O	D	R	E	O	O	L	Z	V	U	D	Z	K	O	R
R	G	T	L	E	N	B	T	J	C	Z	N	O	C	H
K	O	Y	E	R	E	P	U	B	L	I	C	I	T	Y
S	M	H	C	X	L	H	O	J	C	E	O	S	S	G

Black
Celebration
Community
Declaration
Democracy
Equality
Fireworks

Equality
Flag
Government
Independence
Justice
Liberty
Nation

Parade
Patriotic
Pride
Red
Republic
Unity
White




 Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
 Ministry of Finance and the Economy
TREASURY DIVISION
PENSIONS MANAGEMENT

NOTICE

TO GOVERNMENT PENSIONERS

Are you a government pensioner?

Do you have questions or queries concerning your:

- Retirement benefits or
- Entitlement under the Widows' and Orphans' Pension Scheme?

Please call 623-2941 ext. 1015 or 1018 for assistance.

COMPTROLLER OF ACCOUNTS

www.finance.gov.tt

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We would like to receive your comments and any questions that you have!

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or email: comm.finance@gov.tt Persons interested in contributing articles please contact us.

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