



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19th, 2019

MEDIA RELEASE

Response to Sunday Express Editorial of February 17, 2019 on Carnival Funding


The Hon. Colm Imbert, Minister of Finance, notes that the Sunday Express Opinion of February 17th, 2019 has accused the Ministry of Finance of “arbitrarily” determining funding for Carnival whilst having no transparent processes for application and receipt of Carnival funding by entities.


As part of its commitment to public education and dispelling fake news from a misinformed media, the Ministry wishes to highlight that all requests for funding to the Ministry must be document-supported and submitted by clear deadlines.


Further, in 2019, the NCC through its line Ministry has made only two requests so far to the Ministry of Finance for funding of the 2019 Carnival and both requests have been honoured in a timely manner.

The following table indicates monies requested, dates requested, the amounts released and the dates when this was done.

NCC Funding Requests 2019	Date Requested	Amount Requested \$	Date Released	Amount Released \$	Amount Outstanding \$
1	January 10, 2019	25,000,000	January 24, 2019	25,000,000	
2	February 11, 2019	73,842,396	February 12, 2019	25,489,790	
			February 18, 2019	<u>38,391,972</u>	
	<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>98,842,396</u> <u>(\$98.8M)</u>		<u>88,881,762</u> <u>(\$88.9M)</u>	* <u>9,960,634</u> <i>To be released upon receipt of additional supporting documents</i>

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The Minister of Finance wishes to point out that not only has the Ministry provided funding to the tune of \$88.9 million so far for the 2019 Carnival, it has done so with a tried and tested process that is both timely and efficient, thereby treating both the NCC and the Carnival it is responsible for managing in a respectful manner.

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The Hon. Colm Imbert
Minister of Finance