



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

For immediate release

December 31st, 2021

MEDIA RELEASE

SPECIAL LICENCES FOR THE M.V. OCEAN PELICAN WERE NOT APPROVED BY THE MINISTER OF FINANCE

The Minister of Finance, Hon. Colm Imbert, MP, has taken note of statements made today (December 31, 2021), by members of the Opposition UNC regarding the alleged approval by the Minister of Finance of special licences for the M.V. Ocean Pelican and/or Adrian Scoon.

For the record, the Minister of Finance did NOT approve the special licences issued to the M.V. Ocean Pelican and/or Adrian Scoon that are currently circulating on social media.

To the contrary, being aware of the current prohibition on party boats, when asked to approve the special licences last month, on November 5, 2021, the Minister queried the permissibility of the request in the context of the current Covid-19 Public Health Regulations.

Upon consideration of the Minister's query, the request to the Minister to approve the licences was withdrawn. As a consequence, the Minister of Finance did not approve the licences, which is an express requirement of Section 45(1)(c) of the Liquor Licences Act Chap. 84:10.

However, for yet unresolved reasons, despite clear written instructions to the contrary on December 3, 2021, the Customs and Excise Division issued the said licences, without the approval of the Minister.

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These licences have since been deemed by the Customs and Excise Division to be null and void as no directions for the issuance of same were given by the Minister of Finance.

Attached are copies of relevant supporting documents.

The irregular and unauthorised issuance of these special licences is now under investigation.

- END -

The Honourable Colm Imbert M.P.
Minister of Finance