



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

For immediate release

September 15th, 2023

MEDIA RELEASE

MINISTER OF FINANCE WINS THE APPEAL BROUGHT BY RAVI BALGOBIN MAHARAJ AGAINST THE DECISION OF THE HIGH COURT TO UPHOLD THE APPOINTMENT OF PATRICK FERREIRA AS CHAIRMAN OF THE NIB

The Minister of Finance, Hon. Colm Imbert, MP, wishes to advise that this morning the Court of Appeal dismissed a challenge brought by Mr. Ravi Balgobin Maharaj against the Minister of Finance in relation to the appointment of Mr. Patrick Ferreira as the Chairman of the National Insurance Board of Trinidad and Tobago.

In dismissing Maharaj's appeal, the Court of Appeal found, among other things that:

"The trial judge was correct to dismiss the application. There is nothing in the Act which prohibits the appointment of Mr. Ferreira as chairman of the NIB. The application for judicial review is misconceived and the appeal must be dismissed."

The Court of Appeal also clarified that, in relation to appointments on the Board of the NIB, *"the input of Business, Labour and Government is simply to nominate them. Once nominated the directors are autonomous and function on behalf of the NIB and no one else. On that basis alone, Mr. Ferreira's service on the NIB board as nominee of the Government cannot taint or compromise his subsequent appointment as chairman."*

Further, the Court of Appeal upheld a key finding of the trial judge in the High Court, namely that:

"the Minister took relevant matters into account in making the appointment and his decision was justifiable by subjective and objective standards. The Minister's decision was therefore, within the scope of the Act, lawful and reasonable."



(868) 612-9700



(868) 612-1869



comm.finance@gov.tt



www.finance.gov.tt

The Court of Appeal accordingly found that:

“the Minister’s exercise of his discretion stands and the appeal is dismissed.”

A copy of the decision of the Court of Appeal is attached

Minister of Finance

September 15, 2023

- END -