



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
**MINISTRY OF FINANCE**

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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**Misconceptions Regarding the Government's Decision  
on the Recommendations in the 117<sup>th</sup> SRC Report**

The Minister of Finance, Hon. Colm Imbert, MP, has taken note of a misconception in the public domain regarding the Government's decision on the 117<sup>th</sup> Report of the Salaries Review Commission.

It must be emphasised that the 117<sup>th</sup> SRC Report is the result of ***a job evaluation exercise*** that has taken over a decade to complete, and it is not a general or ordinary review of terms and conditions of employment of offices under the purview of the SRC.

The Government has made it clear that it is of the view that there are a number of serious anomalies in the Report, such as the recommendation that the salaries of Judges of the Supreme Court of Trinidad and Tobago be maintained at the same levels as in the last report of the SRC, i.e. that there be no increases for Judges of the High Court and the Court of Appeal since the 98<sup>th</sup> SRC Report was approved (with a reservation on transport facilities) in 2013, over 10 years ago.

Another serious anomaly is that the SRC has recommended that the salaries of Industrial Court Judges be reduced, while there are some surprising increases such as the recommended 60% increase in the compensation package of the Leader of the Opposition.

In making his statement on the Government's decision to send the 117<sup>th</sup> Report back to the SRC with a list of anomalies for its review, the Minister of Finance did not assert, or suggest, as declared in the headline of an article published on March 7, 2024, in the Newsday: ***"No pay rise for PM – Government rejects 'irrational' salary proposals for MPs, officials"***.

Specifically, the Minister of Finance did not say or even imply that the Government has rejected the entire 117<sup>th</sup> SRC Report, or all its recommendations, which are the result of a 10-year Job Evaluation Exercise. In fact, the only increase for an MP mentioned in the Minister's statement was that of the Leader of the Opposition, and this was highlighted because of the exceptionally large size of the recommended increase in salary for that position (60%).

Indeed, what the Minister actually said is as follows:

***"The 117th Report of the SRC is unacceptable because of the serious and inexplicable anomalies that have emerged in the recommendations in the Report. The Cabinet believes it is necessary to alert the SRC to the existence of these anomalies. Therefore, the Cabinet intends to refer the 117th Report of the SRC back to the Commission with a list of anomalies so that it can revisit, review, and revise its recommendations and return a revised Report to the Cabinet via the President for its consideration"***.

Further, since the Minister's statement on March 6, 2024, the Government has received further correspondence from the Judiciary regarding the recommendations made by the SRC regarding certain of its senior administrative officers.

It should be noted that the Government was faced with three choices in dealing with the 117<sup>th</sup> Report, namely (a) reject the Report in its entirety and request the SRC to redo the Job Evaluation Exercise from scratch, or (b) make its own adjustments to the recommendations in the Report without further reference to the SRC, or (c) ask the SRC to revisit and review what the Government considers to be the serious anomalies in the Report, before making a final decision.

The Government chose option (c), since option (a) might have taken another 10 years to complete, and, in view of the advisory role of the SRC and the resources available to it, option (b) was not appropriate at this stage.

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The Honourable Colm Imbert M.P.

Minister of Finance

