



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Finance

For immediate release

October 23rd, 2025

MEDIA RELEASE

Misrepresentation of comments made by the Honourable Minister of Finance on Funding for Public Sector Wage Negotiations

The Minister of Finance, the Honourable Davendranath Tancoo, notes with concern an article published in the *Trinidad and Tobago Guardian Newspaper* on October 22nd 2025, titled ***“No funds in budget for public servants’ payments - Tancoo”***. The article does **not accurately reflect** the Minister’s comments made during the Standing Finance Committee meeting held on October 21, 2025.

At no time did the Minister state that funds were unavailable for the settlement of wages to public officers. In his remarks before the Committee, the Minister clearly explained that *the Budget provides sufficient allocations to meet current obligations and that the Government will follow the proper procedures to secure any additional resources that may become necessary.*

Clarifying the Minister’s Remarks

During the exchange, the Minister of Finance responded to several questions from Opposition Members regarding whether provisions had been made for a proposed **10 percent** salary increase. He explained that:

1. Government cannot include an unconfirmed figure in the Budget for negotiations that have not yet started;



(868) 612-9700



(868) 612-1869



comm.finance@gov.tt



www.finance.gov.tt

2. The responsible approach is to appropriate funds for current liabilities and, once negotiations are completed, to bring any additional requirements to Parliament for approval through a Supplementary Appropriation;
3. This process reflects good financial management and ensures that all spending is properly authorized and transparent; and
4. Sufficient funding exists for ongoing salary and wage payments within the 2025/2026 Fiscal Year.

Responsible Budgeting and Transparency

The Minister of Finance emphasized that budgeting is based on facts, not assumptions. Speculative amounts cannot be inserted for wage negotiations that are still pending. Once a settlement is reached, the Government has well-established mechanisms to provide the additional funds through Parliament, as has been done by previous Administrations.

The Minister also reminded the Committee that this approach upholds accountability and prevents overestimation of expenditure before obligations are confirmed.

Conclusion

The Minister of Finance **categorically rejects** the misleading interpretation suggested by the headline. His statements in Parliament were intended to assure public officers and citizens that there are adequate provisions in the Budget and that the Government remains fully committed to meeting all its obligations. If additional funds are needed, they will be sought through the proper and transparent parliamentary procedures.

-END-

The Honourable Davendranath Tancoo
Minister of Finance