



## THIRTY-EIGHTH REPORT OF THE SALARIES REVIEW COMMISSION

### Review of the arrangements for accommodation and payment of Subsistence Allowance to Members of Parliament, who reside permanently in Tobago and who represent constituencies in Tobago, while on official business in Trinidad

The President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has conveyed his approval for the Salaries Review Commission to consider the proposal that all Members of Parliament who reside permanently in Tobago, and who represent constituencies in Tobago, be entitled to have the cost of hotel expenses, including meals, met by the State, or be granted an appropriate allowance, whenever such Members of Parliament have to travel to Trinidad on official business.

2. The Commission has noted that where Members of the House of Representatives representing constituencies in Tobago travel to Trinidad to attend meetings of Parliament, Committees of Parliament and official functions, the cost of their hotel accommodation, including meals, is met by the State.

3. A question has now arisen as to whether an allowance should apply where such Members of Parliament opt not to utilize the existing arrangement for hotel accommodation.

4. In this regard, the Commission has observed, in comparison, that in 1990 the arrangements for accommodation/meals in respect of Ministers of Government who were required to travel to Tobago on official business were revised to take account of situations where no overnight stay was required or where overnight stay was required but the Minister opted not to utilize hotel facilities. The arrangements which came into effect from April 2, 1990 are as follows:-

- (a) where no overnight stay is required, payment of a flat Subsistence Allowance of \$70.00 per day; and
- (b) where overnight stay is required, payment of hotel expenses including meals and a Subsistence Allowance of \$10.00 per day; where the Minister opts not to utilize hotel facilities, payment of a flat Subsistence Allowance of \$70.00 per day.

5. In light of the foregoing and taking into consideration the general inconvenience associated with inter-island travel, the Commission is of the view that the above-mentioned arrangements for Ministers should apply equally to Members of Parliament, who reside

permanently in Tobago and who represent constituencies in Tobago where official travel to Trinidad is required.

6. Accordingly, the Commission recommends that with respect to Members of Parliament who reside permanently in Tobago and who represent constituencies in Tobago, whenever they are required to travel to Trinidad on official business, the existing arrangements for accommodation/meals should be replaced by the following:-

- (i) where no overnight stay is required, payment of a flat Subsistence Allowance of \$70.00 per day; and
- (ii) where overnight stay is required, payment of hotel expenses including meals and a Subsistence Allowance of \$10.00 per day; where the Member opts not to utilize hotel facilities, payment of a flat Subsistence Allowance of \$70.00 per day.

It is also recommended that the arrangements at (i) and (ii) above should take effect from 1st September, 1995.

Dated this day ..*20/9*.. September, 1995.

*Leonard Williams*  
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Leonard Williams  
(Chairman)

*Edward Collier*  
.....  
Edward Collier

*Rowell Debysingh*  
.....  
Rowell Debysingh

*George Leonard Lewis*  
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George Leonard Lewis

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Keith Ortiz\*

\*Out of the country.