



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

## **PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT**

(Office of the Chief Personnel Officer)

Telephone Contact: 1-868-612-4CPO (4276)

*#3 Alexandra Street, St. Clair, Newtown 190129, Trinidad and Tobago.*

# **MEDIA RELEASE**

## **Fire Service Members Vote to Accept CPO's 4% Offer**

**June 2, 2023** – The Executive of the Fire Service Associations (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Division) accepted the Chief Personnel Officer (CPO), Commander Dr. Daryl Dindial's **4% Salary Offer** following an emergency meeting with their members who voted in favour of accepting the offer. The Fire Service Associations signed off on a **Memorandum of Agreement (MoA)** accommodating the **4% salary increase** for the periods **2014-2016 and 2017-2019**.

Apart from the **4% salary increase**, the **Associations** signed off on the improvement of allowances and the revision of some existing benefits applicable to its members. There were adjustments to allowances such as **Protective Suit Maintenance, House and Meal, Travelling and Facilities, Special Responsibility, Special Tobago Allowance, Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)** as well as, a **Lump-sum payment of \$4,000.00** to Officers who retired compulsorily, voluntarily and with permission on the grounds of illness for the period **2014-2015**. Additionally, new allowances such as **Land, Search and Rescue, Legal Unit, Information Technology and Air Condition Technology** were included along with an agreement to conduct a **Job Evaluation Exercise**.

The **CPO** stated throughout the negotiations process that the State demonstrated its commitment to honouring its offer, despite the matter being referred to the **Special Tribunal of the Industrial Court**. He added that the Government's priority remains the preservation of jobs in our economy, and the role of the State as an employer cannot be divorced from its role as manager of the economy.

Dr. Dindial shared that several **CARICOM** countries such as **Antigua & Barbuda, Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia and Jamaica** all had wage freezes during the period under review. He added, several **CARICOM** countries also retrenched workers in their **Public Service** as a means of reducing expenditure. He is thankful that this was not our reality.

The **CPO** thanks the nation's **Fire Officers** for their continuous demonstration of commitment to serving the public and protecting the lives and property of the citizens of **Trinidad and Tobago**. He added there are many outstanding issues that the **Personnel Department** is continuing to work on to improve the lives, welfare and well-being of our **Fire Officers** along with other stakeholders.

**Commander Dindial** wishes to recognise the **Executive** of the **1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Division Associations** for their leadership and for working tirelessly on behalf of their membership.

The **CPO** also appeals to other **Associations** to accept the offer.

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