



MINISTRY OF TOURISM

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DELAY IN PAYMENTS TO LIFEGUARDS

The Ministry of Tourism wishes to clarify certain statements made during the protest by lifeguards yesterday (October 15) with regards to the delay in wage payments for the fortnight ending September 25 which was to be paid on October 09, 2015.

1. By the Trinidad and Tobago Gazette #97 dated September 23 the Ministry of Tourism was formally advised of the transfer of Lifeguard Services to the Ministry of National Security with effect from September 11, 2015.
2. The Ministry of Tourism informed the lifeguards, by letter dated October 08, 2015 through their representative union the National Union of Government and Federated Workers (NUGFW), of the short delay in the payment of wages.
3. The situation of the delay in wages to the lifeguards arose as the Financial Year 2014/2015 closed prior to the reading of the National Budget and the finalisation of the necessary financial and administrative processes.
4. Patrol Captains, who are responsible for the life-guard patrolled beaches and assigned workers, were so advised by the Lifeguard Supervisor II on October 12, 2015.
5. On October 14, 2015 the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism met with Mr. Augustus Sylvester, Lifeguard Water and Safety Education Officer and Branch Chairman of NUGFW, with respect to the delay in wage payments and indicated that the Ministry of Tourism was working very closely with the Ministry of National Security and the Treasury Division to speedily effect payment to all affected workers.

6. The Ministry of Tourism has been advised by the National Security Ministry that the lifeguards will be paid today, Friday October 16, 2015.

Lifeguards patrol specific beaches in Trinidad, namely Toco, Mayaro, Manzanilla, Salybia, Maracas, Tyrico, Las Cuevas, Los Iros, Vessigny and Quinam. Lifeguards patrol beaches from 10.00am to 6.00pm seven (7) days a week. The Tobago House of Assembly (THA) is responsible for the beaches in Tobago.

October 16, 2015

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