



MINISTER OF LABOUR AND SMALL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

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Press Release

Head of the Joint Trade Union Movement (JTUM) Ancel Roget is satisfied with the progress made with many of the labour-related issues brought to the attention of the Minister of Labour and Small Enterprise Development, Jennifer Baptiste-Primus. Mr. Roget made this statement during the JTUM's second quarterly meeting with Minister Baptiste-Primus at the Ministry's Head Office on Tuesday, January 16, 2016.

Several topics came forward during this meeting, however the central focus was on the Industrial Relations Amendment Consultation, to be hosted by the Ministry on February 22 and 23; the Tripartite Approach to industrial relations dispute resolution; contract employment in both the private and public sectors; the issue of the status of applications for registration and recognition made by Trade Unions to the Registration Recognition and Certification Board (RRCB).

Minister Baptiste- Primus took the opportunity to promote the importance of two upcoming consultations to be hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development. The Industrial Relations Amendment consultation will address, among other things the JTUM's concerns on the structure and operations of the RRCB. The consultation on Contract Labour: Reducing the dependency, will bring Trade Unions and Employers together to discuss this issue and to explore solutions to challenges being encountered. Indeed, the President of the Bankers, Insurance and General Workers' Union President, Vincent Cabrera described contract employment as being, "out of control."

Mr. Roget also took the opportunity to reiterate his concern to Minister Baptiste-Primus on the lack of labour representation on certain State Boards. The Minister gave the assurance that this issue is being addressed.

Present at the meeting were representatives of the Steel Workers' Union, who thanked the Minister of Labour and Small Enterprise Development for her numerous interventions in the matter before the Union and Arcelor Mittal. Minister Baptiste-Primus stated that she has done all that she can do in this matter.

Roget commended Minister Baptiste-Primus for holding steadfast to the course she set out for the JTUM in their initial meeting, when she assumed office. Minister Baptiste-Primus said she will continue to approach her responsibilities fairly and fearlessly during her tenure.

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