



June 21, 2020

UPDATED MEDIA RELEASE

**Ministry of Labour Small and Enterprise Development: “There has been NO additional 10 percent increase in the stipend for the On-the-Job Training (OJT) Programme”**

The Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development (MOLSED) wishes to clarify misinformation which continues to be circulated in the public domain regarding a reported ten percent (10%) increase for the On-the-Job Training (OJT) Programme Trainees.

This inaccurate information was first reported by Sean Douglas and published by the *Trinidad Newsday* on Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup> 2020 titled “On-The-Job Trainees to get 10 percent Stipend Increase.”

In an bid to correct this misinformation, the Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development (MOLSED) issued a media release dated, Friday June 12<sup>th</sup> 2020, stating that Senator the Honourable Jennifer Baptiste Primus in her opening statement before the Standing Finance Committee of Parliament on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June 2020, had indicated that the increase to the allocation for the On-Job-Training (OJT) Programme was requested to supplement the 2019/2020 funding of the OJTP, as a result of the ten percent (10%) increase in stipends that took effect from December 1st, 2019. This media release also stated that there was nothing in the Minister’s presentation that would have indicated that a further increase would be given, thus pointing to the inaccuracy of that ‘Newsday Article.’



Based on the media release, the Trinidad Newsday retracted its inaccuracy and published a correction to the article, on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020.

However, the Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development (MOLSED) has now taken note, that one respected Trade Union, the National Union of Government and Federated Workers (NUGFW) in its Labour Day Message published in all three (3) daily newspapers on Friday June 19<sup>th</sup> 2020, is accusing the Ministry of Labour Small and Enterprise Development and its line Minister, Senator the Honourable Jennifer Baptiste Primus of announcing an additional ten percent (10%) increase for the OJTP for 2020.

To this end, the Ministry of Labour Small and Enterprise Development wishes to categorically state that contrary to what has been published in the Trade Union's Labour Day Message and what was initially reported by the *Trinidad Newsday*, "**There has been NO additional 10 percent increase in the stipend for On-The-Job Trainees.**"

In fact, the **only** increase for the On-Job-Training (OJT) Programme has been following the decision taken by Cabinet which was announced in the Budget Presentation on October 7<sup>th</sup> 2019, by Minister of Finance, the Honourable Colm Imbert, M.P. In that 2019/2020 fiscal package he stated that the Government would increase the On-Job-Training (OJT) Programme stipend by ten percent (10%) percent and also increase the intake for the programme to 8,000 trainees. This came into effect as at December 2019 and **ALL** On-The-Job Trainees have, to date, received their stipend upgrade



as promised. **No additional increase has been offered, or announced for the On-The-Job Training Programme.**

It is hoped that this clarifies and corrects the misinformation that continues to be circulated and spread among the population.

The On-Job-Training (OJT) Programme Division continues to remain committed to developing the youth of the nation with the provision of opportunities for training through the acquisition of work-based knowledge and industry specific experience in a safe working environment.

**For more information on the On-the-Job Training Programme, you may visit our website at: <https://molsed.gov.tt/employment/on-the-job-training-programme> or contact the Corporate Communications Unit of the Ministry at: [communicationsmolsmed@gov.tt](mailto:communicationsmolsmed@gov.tt) or 625-8478 Exts. 1203, 1208 or 1212.**

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