



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

(Office of the Chief Personnel Officer)

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MEDIA RELEASE

Months of Deliberation Close with TTUTA Accepting CPO's Offer

May 17, 2023 – Months of deliberation ended earlier today, with the **Trinidad and Tobago Unified Teachers' Association (TTUTA)** accepting the **Chief Personnel Officer (CPO), Commander Dr. Daryl Dindial's 4% salary offer** for the periods **2014-2017 and 2017-2020** with enhanced entitlements included in the **Memorandum of Agreement**.

The **TTUTA's Executive** negotiated and signed off on the improvement of allowances and the expansion of some existing benefits applicable to members of the Teaching Service. These included improved provisions for **Sabbatical Leave, Commuted Travelling Allowance**, and an expanded list for **Incentive Allowance**. In addition, a new **Telephone Allowance** was introduced for all **Principals, Vice Principals, Senior Teachers, and Senior Special Education Teachers**.

Adjustments were also made to **Travelling Allowances, Cost of Living Allowance (COLA)** as well as, the grant of a **one-time lump-sum payment of \$4000.00** to members of the teaching service who retired **compulsorily, voluntarily, and with permission on the grounds of ill health** for the period **October 1, 2014 to September 30, 2016**.

The **CPO informed**, that a **Letter of Understanding** was also provided to the **Association**, which contained issues where there is a commitment by the **Personnel Department** to continue deliberations post negotiations. These include **School Based Assessments (SBAs) and Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQs)**, and the **payment of a Technology Allowance** for the purchase of teaching resources in light of the proposed introduction of the **Dual/Hybrid Education System**.

Additionally, the conduct of a **Job Evaluation Exercise** was also agreed upon, which is expected to commence in fiscal **2024/2025**.

Commander Dindial is aware of the integral role that our educators are expected to perform. He noted, that their responsibilities go beyond the formal duties of any job description since teachers take the initiative to act as **Guidance Officers, Mediators and Councillors** to resolve issues in their classrooms. He added, that they continue to make sacrifices to assist our nation's children.

The CPO unreservedly thanks the nation's educators for their unwavering commitment throughout and during the **COVID-19** pandemic. He acknowledges there are many outstanding Administrative issues such as **Increments and Classification of Extended Sick Leave** along with other matters that are impacting teachers. The Association with CPO is working with other stakeholders to address those concerns. He appeals to teachers to continue their commitment and passion for educating, guiding and mentoring our children to make the right life choices.

Commander Dindial wishes to recognise **TTUTA's Executive** for their leadership and for working tirelessly on behalf of its membership.

He also appeals to the other **Associations** to accept the Government's offer.

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