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JULY 27, 2011

TO: NEWS EDITORS

PRESS RELEASE

RE: CURRENT LABOUR NEGOTIATION SITUATION IN TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

In the considered opinion of the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, this country has reached a really critical juncture with respect to the state of labour negotiations. Now that the Honourable Prime Minister has stated that there is no 5 percent “cap”, we believe the unions should take her at her word, and that this situation now presents both sides of the current negotiating table – the labour union leaders and government representatives – with the opportunity to utilize the true bargaining process according to the letter and spirit of the law as set out in the Industrial Relations Act.

This is a process that has been tried and tested in the past by the labour unions, and it allows for a more amicable, objective and certainly less disruptive solution to wage negotiations.

As long as the present situation continues, the economic stability, productivity and investment in this country will continue to be uncertain in a period of little growth.

It is therefore in the best interest of the labour unions, their constituent stakeholders, the employers, the government, and the nation as a whole, for all parties involved to not circumvent, but rather follow the bargaining process to its full extent, according to the laws of Trinidad and Tobago.

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