

MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND SMALL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Response to Recommendations/Comments contained in the Ninth Report of the Joint Select Committee on Social Services and Public Administration on an inquiry into the state of contract employment in the public service

1. Recommendation, page 43 (B)

“That as a matter of urgency, a Committee comprised of the central HRM agencies such as MPAC, Service Commissions Department, Personnel Department, OPM and MOLSED should be established to address the key staffing deficiencies in the agencies responsible for contract employment and filling of vacant permanent positions in the Public Service.”

Response

The Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development (MOLSED) recommends that the Office of the Prime Minister seeks to establish the Committee.

2. Recommendation, page 52, (v)

“That the MoLSED recruit and hire the necessary staff in the Labour Market Information Unit of the MoLSED in order to effectively and efficiently generate information on the labour market needs of Trinidad and Tobago.”

Response

The MOLSED, in order to effectively and efficiently generate information on the labour market needs of Trinidad and Tobago, sought and obtained Cabinet’s approval by **Minute No. 1919 dated August 6, 2015**, for the employment, on contract, of staff of the Labour Market Information Unit (LMIU) as follows:

- One (1) Head, LMIU;
- Four (4) Labour Market Specialists; and
- One (1) Business Operations Assistant II.

Currently, the following is a status on the filling of the above-mentioned contract positions:

- One (1) position of Head, LMIU, was filled with effect from May 13, 2019;

- The contract of one (1) Labour Market Specialist is due to expire on August 7, 2019;
- Two (2) vacant positions of Labour Market Specialist are to be advertised at the end of June 2019; and
- Interviews have been conducted and steps are being finalized for the filling of the position of Business Operations Assistant II.

It should be noted that an approach will be made to Cabinet shortly for the further employment on contract of two (2) Labour Market Specialists.

3. Recommendation, page 52, (vi)

“That the MoLSED in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) submit an appropriate structure and training for members of this Unit within three months of the presentation of this report to the Parliament.”

Response

In light of the recent appointment of the Head, LMIU, with effect from May 13, 2019, and the plans for the filling of the remaining positions of Labour Market Specialist, the MOLSED will collaborate with the International Labour Organization (ILO) to ensure the implementation of an organizational structure and training for members of staff to ensure that established deliverables are met. It should also be noted that the MOLSED will approach Cabinet by the end of June 2019 for the re-establishment of the Standing National Labour Market Council of Trinidad and Tobago to support the efficient and effective generation of information on the labour market needs of Trinidad and Tobago.

4. Recommendation, page 52-53, (vii)

“That the MoLSED provide the Parliament with the following information in its Ministerial response:

With respect to the National Unemployment Register (NUR):

- (i) How many persons have been employed to date since its inception?**
- (ii) What is the ratio of male to female and ages for successful job re-entry?”**

Response

The collection of data via the National Unemployment Register (NUR) commenced in October 2016. The NUR is now subsumed as part of the National Employment Service which is Government’s free public employment service which provides job placement, counselling and advisory services. The registration of persons in the National Employment Service includes those who are unemployed, retrenched and those seeking employment.

- (i) From 2016 to 2018, **two thousand and forty-six (2,046)** persons have been placed in employment by the National Employment Service.
- (ii) The ratio of male to female placed by the National Employment Service is approximately 1:2. Data on ages for successful job re-entry is currently unavailable from the National Employment Service.