



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
MINISTRY OF FINANCE

For immediate release

May 10th 2024

MEDIA RELEASE

**CORRECTLY DATED AMENDED PUBLIC ACCOUNTS
WERE SUBMITTED TO AUDITOR GENERAL**

Based on current media coverage, which is not unexpectedly slanted towards the sensational, the Minister of Finance, Hon. Colm Imbert, MP, wishes to dispel the notion that still persists in some quarters that he somehow “backdated” the national public accounts for the financial year 2023.

It bears repeating that the national public accounts are prepared and submitted to the Auditor General by public officers in the Treasury and not by the Minister of Finance. The insinuation that the Minister backdated the accounts is therefore ridiculous.

It also bears repeating that the ill-conceived notion about “backdated” public accounts for FY 2023 stems from a letter dated April 28, 2024, written by Freedom Law Chambers - headed by the former UNC Attorney General, Anand Ramlogan, SC - purportedly on behalf of the Auditor General.

In that letter, it was alleged that both the original and the amended public accounts for FY 2023 were dated and signed January 31st, 2024 and that this was viewed as an unethical attempt to cover a financial mistake of unprecedented magnitude. This was a very serious and scandalous allegation.

In fact, there was no attempt whatsoever to backdate the original national accounts, and it is necessary to emphasise that the Statement of Declaration and Certification of the Amended Public Accounts delivered to and received by the Auditor General on April 16th, 2024 was signed

and dated **April 16th, 2024**, by all three public servants who signed that Statement, **and not January 31st, 2024**, as alleged in the April 28th letter from Freedom Law Chambers.

A copy of the signed and dated April 16th, 2024 Statement of Declaration and Certification of the Amended Public Accounts is attached for public clarification on this matter.

- END -

The Honourable Colm Imbert M.P.
Minister of Finance