

CONTRACT WORKERS TO BE PAID ARREARS

Contract workers attached to the Tobago Regional Health Authority (TRHA) will be paid salary arrears.

The Tobago House of Assembly has already provided funds for a 50 per cent arrears payment to TRHA public servants.

No decision, however, had been made on similar payments to contract workers after the THA was advised by the Chief Personnel Officer that those on contract were not entitled to arrears. The THA sought legal advice from Senior Counsel, which Chief Secretary Orville London said was received this week.

“That opinion advised us that we should pay the arrears to the contract

officers,” London said yesterday (August 24) at the weekly post Executive Council media briefing at the Administrative Complex, Calder Hall.

“Following on that we met today and the Executive Council took the decision to confirm the payment of the arrears.”

The funding had previously been sourced by Finance Secretary Joel Jack but was withheld pending the legal advice.

London added: “During the course of this week, the TRHA will be able to double check the various payments and hopefully sometime in the next week or two the payments should in fact be made.”

SHIRVAN TRAFFIC LIGHTS TO BE TESTED TOMORROW

The Division of Infrastructure and Public Utilities will conduct a test run of the Shirvan Traffic Light system tomorrow (August 26).

The system is currently being installed and once this process is completed, the lights will be tested for the entire day. This is being done to ensure the electrical, technological and safety features of the system operate as required.

Drivers and pedestrians are being asked to pay attention to the traffic signals during this period.

BETTER TELECOM SERVICES COMING

Within a month, Tobago customers will be able to transfer their phone numbers when changing service providers. That’s just one of several changes coming to ensure the island benefits from better and more consistent service.

Chief Secretary Orville London met with the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago (TATT) earlier this week, and said the Authority has promised better coverage for the island.

London said: “We got a commitment from TATT that what they’re going to be doing is to have a minimum level of coverage if providers are going to guarantee that their license will be preserved.

“And of course we’re going to be looking forward to ensuring that it is enforced.”

The island will also soon have greater access to internet services through the introduction of Wi-Fi hotspots across Tobago.

“That is something that we in Tobago will look forward to. Obviously down the road, we’re looking forward to the situation where Tobago is part of the goal [to have] an intelligent island where Wi-Fi can be available at every location in Tobago.”

London said this will happen in phases, beginning in the coming weeks.



HAVING THEIR SAY: Residents of Scarborough/Calder Hall attend the THA's Face to Face community meeting in their district at the Mason Hall Community Centre on August 16, 2016. From right, front row, are THA Secretaries Tracy Davidson-Celestine, Claudia Groome-Duke, Gary Melville, Dr. Denise Tsoiafatt-Angus, Joel Jack and Hayden Spencer.
Photo: JUDAH JOEFIELD