



P.O. Box 5455, Factory Road, Ste. Madeleine, Trinidad, W.I
Phone: (868) 698-2737, (868) 225-4400, Fax: (868) 698-0166
Email: cepep.info@cepep.gov.tt; Website: www.cepep.gov.tt

Attention: All Editors

For Immediate Release

MEDIA RELEASE

CEPEP Clarifies Decision to Reduce Workers' Salaries

June 4th, 2021 – During the monthly meeting of CEPEP's Board of Directors on Wednesday 26th May 2021, a decision was taken by the Board to temporarily reduce the management fees of contractors and their workers. This decision took effect today, Friday 4th June 2021.

This decision, while contentious, directly protects the welfare of workers as that is the Company's main priority at this time. This measure will ensure that there is **no job loss** at CEPEP. In 2020, workers were compensated for three (3) months while at home. At the present time, we are unable to provide that level of financial support to 10,000 workers. After careful assessment, the Board took the decision to reduce the working hours of workers to four (4) hours per day, reduce the teams by 50% so each worker will be working two (2) days per week and a maximum of eight (8) days per month. Consequently, their salaries will be reduced by 33.3% and this will also affect the management fees of contractors.

The Company relayed this information to all contractors via a ZOOM meeting on Wednesday June 2nd 2021 where their questions and concerns were addressed. Chairman of the CEPEP Board of Directors, Ms. Marilyn Michael reiterates, "We continue to pay the salaries of 10,000 workers and have not sent any workers home. In order to operate effectively we have cut down the working hours of each worker and placed them in smaller rotating teams. As we battle the COVID-19 pandemic, we must be responsible when utilizing public monies. At this time, we must implement stricter fiscal policies in the interest of maintaining the CEPEP programme and safeguarding the employment of the thousands of persons who depend on this organization for employment."

The CEPEP Company operates on government subvention and the COVID-19 pandemic has created a challenging economic period which has prompted the decision to reduce salaries and management fees. The CEPEP Company will continue to execute its mandate, protect the most vulnerable in society and maintain maximum safety standards for all workers as they conduct their duties.

END.

Chairman: Ms. Marilyn Michael

Deputy Chairman: Mr. Derek Ambrose

Directors: Mr. Sabeer Ali, Ms. Phyllis Wickham-Stewart, Cheryl Ann Ryan-Mohammed
Mr. Rajcoomar Bhagaloo, Ms. Heather Tardieu, Mr. Glen Roach, Mr. Cecil Santana

CEPEP - Changing, Evolving, Pursuing Excellence Professionally
An Investment in Sustainable Development