

## POST CABINET PRESS BRIEFING SUMMARY – Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2016

The Honourable Terrance Deyalsingh, Minister of Health, as well as the Honourable Stuart Young, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Office of the Attorney General, addressed members of the media during the Post Cabinet Press Briefing today (Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2016) at the Office of the Prime Minister, St. Clair, Port of Spain.

Minister Deyalsingh provided an update on the arrival of oncology (and other) drugs in Trinidad and Tobago. According to the minister, the National Insurance Property Development Co Ltd (NIPDEC) has assured that the first major shipment of drugs, which is intended for the public sector, will start from today (1<sup>st</sup> September 2016). The second batch of oncology drugs will arrive between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> weeks in September.

Minister Deyalsingh emphasised once again that Dr. Peter Baggan, General Manager, Primary Care Services at the North West Regional Health Authority (NWRHA), has provided the assurance that all oncology patients are receiving second line treatments and are stable.

The Minister of Health also announced that the ministry has started a Monitoring and Evaluation Unit to hold partners (e.g. GMRTT, NIPDEC) accountable. This is part of efforts to put systems in place to eliminate perennial shortages of drugs.

Minister Stuart Young also made a few announcements at the Post Cabinet Press Briefing.

Minister Young announced the Cabinet decision to move the Ministry of Public Utilities to #1 Alexandra Place. The Ministry of Sport and Youth Affairs will occupy the building which currently houses the Ministry of Public Utilities.

Minister Young also provided an update on the meeting with the Prime Minister, Dr. the Honourable Keith Rowley, the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs. Kamla Persad-Bissessar and their respective delegations. Mrs. Persad-Bissessar has submitted an agenda for the meeting, which is scheduled for 11am tomorrow (Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 2016). Discussions will focus on issues related to crime.

The Government delegation, led by Prime Minister Rowley, will include the Honourable Faris Al-Rawi, Attorney General, the Honourable Major General (Ret'd) Edmund Dillon, Minister of National Security, the Honourable Stuart Young, Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister and the Office of the Attorney General and Ms Marlene McDonald, Member of Parliament for Port of Spain (South).

Minister Young also confirmed that eight (8) persons in possession of Trinidad and Tobago passports were held by Turkish authorities. However, an official response from the Turkish government on this matter is still pending.