



## MEDIA RELEASE

### ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO NATIONALS OVERSEAS STRANDED DURING BORDER CLOSURE

#### PORT OF SPAIN: 14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2020

Requests for exemption from border closure measures received from Trinidad and Tobago nationals at Trinidad and Tobago Missions are brought to the immediate attention of the Ministry of National Security, under whose responsibility the consideration and granting of these exemptions fall. Nationals are also guided to address their requests for exemption directly to the Minister of National Security and to submit their applications to the Ministry of National Security e-mail address dedicated for receiving requests for exemption [travelexemption@mns.gov.tt](mailto:travelexemption@mns.gov.tt).

Trinidad and Tobago Overseas Missions have maintained contact with nationals of this country who were stranded overseas when the nation's borders closed on 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2020. The Missions have also provided humanitarian assistance to nationals in the form of financial disbursements via the following Missions:

- High Commission of Trinidad and Tobago, London
- Consulate General of Trinidad and Tobago, Miami
- Consulate General of Trinidad and Tobago, New York
- Embassy of Trinidad and Tobago, Washington, D.C.
- Consulate General of Trinidad and Tobago, Toronto

The Trinidad and Tobago Missions have been able to successfully disburse US\$205,958.99 to 298 nationals who sought assistance from the last week of August to the end of September 2020, under the instructions of the Ministry of Finance which provided the funds for the initiative. The Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs encourages nationals stranded overseas due to the COVID-19 pandemic to provide their contact details to the Trinidad and Tobago Mission that is closest to their location, to ensure that any useful information obtained by the Missions may be provided in a timely manner. With specific reference to the United Kingdom, the High Commission disbursed the pound sterling equivalent of USD 29,044.24 to nationals whose applications were approved.

**Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs**