



The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

ATTN: News Editor

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Here are the Real Facts on Fees:

The Ministry of the Attorney General & Legal Affairs has observed on social media, false publications being shared largely by UNC activists which are supposedly based upon Ministry of Finance information and which state that expenditure under Attorney General Faris Al-Rawi are supposedly greater than under the management of Attorney General Anand Ramolgan S.C.

FACTS:

1. Anand Ramlogan SC was appointed as the Attorney General of Trinidad and Tobago on **May 26, 2010** and assigned the responsibility of managing the Ministry of the Attorney General.
2. Faris Al-Rawi was appointed as the Attorney General and Minister of Legal Affairs on **September 9, 2015** and assigned the responsibility of managing the combined two (2) Ministries of the Attorney General and the Ministry of Legal Affairs which as matter of fact, absorbed significant parts of the former Ministry of Justice.
3. The Ministry invites the public to carefully examine the Appropriation Bills, Supplementary Appropriation Bills, the Variation of Appropriation Bills and the Finance Bills for the financial years 2010 to 2018 inclusive which give the precise budgetary figures and close off of accounts for all Ministries per year.
4. The published data reveals:
 - a. Under the UNC Administration, the combined expenditure for the period **2010 to 2015** inclusive for the Ministry of Attorney General, the Ministry of Legal Affairs and the Ministry of Justice was **\$4.585 Billion**.

- b. Under the UNC Administration, the expenditure for the period **2010 to 2015** inclusive for the Ministry of Attorney General ONLY was **\$1.222 Billion**.
 - c. Under the present Government, the combined expenditure for the period **2015 to 2019** for the combined Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs (i.e. Ministry of Attorney General AND Ministry of Legal Affairs AND absorbed aspects of Ministry of Justice) ALL TOGETHER is **\$1.014 Billion**.
 - d. Materially:
 - i. Under the UNC Administration, the expenditure on legal fees at the Ministry of the Attorney General was **\$444,444,197.16**. Accumulated debts left behind by the UNC Administration at the Ministry of the Attorney General amounted to **\$137,128,742.16**. The whole of UNC Government expenditure on legal fees largely managed by its Attorneys General amounted to **\$1.6 Billion** approximately inclusive of unpaid debts and expenses at the Ministry of the Attorney General.
 - ii. Under the present Government, expenditure on legal fees has been **\$224,297,888.48**. This includes **\$140,544,281.74** spent on legal fees for the Director of Public Prosecutions and **\$83,753,606.74** spent on legal fees for the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs which has been applied between liquidation of arrears and current expenses.
 - e. The year on year comparison of expenditure on legal fees at the Ministry of the Attorney General demonstrates that under the UNC Administration the average annual expenditure on legal fees was **\$104,588,832.32** whilst under the current Government it is **\$44,859,577.69** being **42.3% lower** year on year on average.
5. The Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs has conducted a comprehensive value-for-money audit on all expenditure and has referred certain matters to the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service and the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions for consideration and such action as they may in their respective constitutionally independently discretions consider appropriate.

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