

**Oral Reply to Question No. 49 raised in the House of Representatives of  
the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago (2018/2019 Session)**

**Question No. 49**

**Could the Minister state when will the Registration, Recognition and Certification Board be appointed?**

*(By the Member for Couva South)*

**Response**

The Registration Recognition and Certification Board (RRCB) plays a critical role in promoting the integrity and credibility of the industrial relations system in Trinidad and Tobago. Through its determination of the appropriate and recognized majority trade union, the RRCB is important in promoting the fundamental principles and rights at work, specifically that of freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining in Trinidad and Tobago.

The RRCB is established under Section 21 of the Industrial Relations Act, Chapter 88:01(IRA). Sections 21 (3) and (4) of the IRA state as follows:

“21 (3)“Subject to this Part, the Minister shall appoint the Chairman and other members of the Board as follows:

- (a) in the case of the Chairman, a fit and proper person selected by the President of Trinidad and Tobago after consultation with such organizations or other bodies of persons as in his opinion are the most representative of workers and employers; and
- (b) in the case of the other members of the Board:
  - i) three members, being persons nominated by such organizations or other bodies of persons as in the opinion of the Minister are the most representative of workers;
  - ii) three members, being persons nominated by such organizations or other bodies of persons as in the opinion of the Minister are the most representative of employers; and

- iii) two members, being persons jointly nominated by the organizations or other bodies of persons referred to in subparagraphs (i) and (ii).

(4) In respect of each member of the Board (other than the Chairman), the Minister shall in like manner appoint an alternate member, and any such alternate member may, with the approval of the Chairman, act in the stead of the respective member at any one or more meetings of the Board or in addition to such a member, where such a member is elected Chairman under section 26(2).”

It should be noted that the term of the last Board ended on February 24, 2018. Prior to the end of the term of the Board, the Ministry of Labour and Small Enterprise Development undertook the necessary action with respect to obtaining nominations from the organizations considered to be most representative of workers and employers, as well as in obtaining the joint nominees. As indicated above, under Section 21 (3)(a) of the IRA, the selection of the Chairman of the RRCB, is under the responsibility of the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago. I was advised by the Office of the President in October 2018 that the process of consulting with the organisations and bodies which are most representative of workers and employers, in an effort to select a suitable Chairman of the RRCB, was in progress and that I will be advised of the person selected as soon as this process is completed.

In this regard, appointments to the RRCB will take place when the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago has selected a Chairman and Cabinet’s approval of the membership of the Board is subsequently obtained.