

National Workers Union

Organise the Un-organised
Workers of the world unite!

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28th August 2014

The Honourable Errol McLeod
Minister of Labour and Small and Micro Enterprise Development
Level 5 & 6, Tower C
International Waterfront Centre
#1 Wrightson Road
Port of Spain



Dear Minister

NON-APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS AT REGISTRATION, RECOGNITION AND CERTIFICATION BOARD

I am writing with reference to the undue delay caused by your failure to appoint a Board at the Registration, Recognition and Certification Board, in accordance with provisions of the Industrial Relations Act (IRA), Chapter 88:01.

The failure of your Ministry to make these appointments detrimentally affects our union and others, and amounts to an infringement of the rights of those workers, on whose behalf we are seeking to become the legally recognised trade union. Our Union is currently awaiting the outcome of applications that are before the Board for more than one (1) year now. As a result, we are forced to speculate, as to the negative effects, which the delay in appointing a Board, can have on its ability when so appointed, to act in accordance with section 26(1) of the IRA.

Section 42 of the IRA is supposed to protect workers against victimisation. However, we know that the best form of defence is union recognition and absence of an effective mechanism for obtaining union recognition remains a major and serious threat to worker's rights.

The Republican Constitution of Trinidad and Tobago enshrines certain rights, one of which is the right to freedom of association. In this regard, we wish to submit that the delay in appointing a Board is a major attack on this fundamental right as it denies workers the right to trade union recognition.

In the circumstances, therefore, we wish to advise that the continued failure on your part, to ensure that a new Board is appointed, can lead us to consider such recourse that is

available and to which we may have to resort to ensure that justice is done.
We look forward to an expeditious and favourable response.
Yours faithfully

Dave Smith
General Secretary