



MEDIA RELEASE

14th October, 2024

Fair Trading Commission Warns Public About Fake WhatsApp Profiles Used for Fraudulently Soliciting Funds

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Fair Trading Commission “the Commission” has recently become aware of a WhatsApp message that is currently in circulation purporting to be from the Commission.

The WhatsApp notifies the recipient that the Commission has a sum of unclaimed cash that will be sent to the recipient upon the payment of a stipulated release fee. The Commission wishes to advise that the WhatsApp number and the contents therein are not approved by the Commission and that they also exhibits features of a phishing scam with the intent to fraudulently solicit funds from unsuspecting individuals.

Members of the public are therefore informed that the Commission has **NO** affiliation with this number or the contents contained in these WhatsApp messages. Further, please note that the Commission will never ask the Public for any monetary payment or otherwise.

If you are already in receipt of such WhatsApp and/or text messages or emails or have sent any information or funds to the sender of any such WhatsApp, you are strongly advised to:

- Ignore any instructions on the WhatsApp message
- Immediately discontinue further communication with the sender of the WhatsApp and report to WhatsApp and block the sender.
- Report same to the Commission at **765-9939** or via email at **tandtftc@gmail.com**
- Make a report to the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service.

For clarification, the Fair Trading Commission is an independent Statutory Agency established pursuant to the Fair-Trading Act 2006. It is the third competition agency established in the CARICOM region and is one of the more than one hundred competition agencies that are presently functioning globally. Its objectives are to:

- Ensure that all legitimate business enterprises have an equal opportunity to participate in the economy.
- Prevent Anti-competitive conduct while at the same time complementing other policies that promote competition.
- Maintain and encourage free and fair competition.
- Raise awareness of the benefits of competition through advocacy.
- Provide guidance on how to comply with the law.



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