



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Health

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS UNIT

Ground Floor Park Plaza, St. Vincent Street, Port of Spain

M E D I A R E L E A S E

20th March, 2021

A Statement from the Honourable Terrence Deyalsingh, Minister of Health to clarify the facts surrounding the Non-Disclosure Agreement with Sinopharm.

The Minister of Health takes note of the unfortunate statements which have been placed in the public domain by the Leader of the Opposition as it relates to the signing of a Non-disclosure agreement with Sinopharm.

The following facts on this matter are presented to address any misconception that this statement has created:

- A non-disclosure agreement (NDA) is a legally binding contract used to establish a confidential relationship between two parties.
- The non-disclosure agreement is a normal part of the procedure to facilitate negotiations and the placement of an indicative order of a COVID-19 vaccine, once the vaccine receives WHO approval.
- The Ministry of Health has indicated publically and transparently when it has signed such NDAs in the past.
- The Ministry of Health has signed non-disclosure agreements with Pfizer and with Sinopharm as part of the standard negotiating process.
- The signing of an NDA does **not** bind a country to purchase vaccines from the manufacturer.

The attempts to undermine the acquisition of COVID-19 vaccines are not in the best interest of Trinidad and Tobago's response to the COVID-19 pandemic or of the nation in general.

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