

CWU questions legal action

...Pre-action protocol on TSTT cyberattack report

■ Sherlan Ramsubhag

sherlan.ramsubhag@trinidadexpress.com

COMMUNICATION Workers' Union (CWU) secretary general Joanne Ogeer is questioning the motives behind pre-action protocol letters from former employees of State-owned Telecommunications Services of Trinidad and Tobago (TSTT) preventing a report on a cyberattack at the organisation from being made public.

On October 9, 2023, a cyberattack was launched on TSTT, however, disclosure of the attack was only given to the public on October 27 after Falcon Feeds, an India-based technology company, revealed on X that TSTT was among the victims of the ransomware group RansomExx.

Public Utilities Minister Marvin Gonzales said on Saturday that, mere hours after receiving the final report on the cyberattack from the TSTT board last week Thursday, he received pre-action protocol letters from the attorneys of former employees asking that the report not be released in Parliament.

In a WhatsApp voice-note yesterday, Ogeer said that in the CWU's view the intention of those letters is to stymie the process of holding persons to account, and demanded that the report be revealed.

She questioned the former employees' motives and asked, 'What is there to hide?'

Said Ogeer, 'If we are to draw a nexus, on January 15, 2025, Sean Roach, the sitting chairman of the TSTT at the point in time when the cyber incursion occurred, resigned for personal reasons. Khamal Georges would have left very early accepting another job opportunity. Lisa Agard was relieved of her duties as chief executive officer, Shiva Ramnarine was also relieved of his duties in the employ of TSTT as chief financial officer.'

She added, 'So, there is only one person left and that would be the person who allegedly approved the statement which was written by Khamal Georges which would have reached to the then CEO Lisa Agard and then to the chairman Sean Roach and discussed with the board, which sent it to the Minister of Public Utilities.'

Ogeer said the issue in the country today is accountability and trust and would say these two qualities continue to be eroded in the court of public opinion.

'And while I maintain as the secretary general of the union to have discretion on the IT aspect on the remedies of the breach to be exposed or released not to enlighten hackers, the public ought to and should know. So, we the CWU, we are saying reveal the report and bring the person or persons to account,' she stated.