



# Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago

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Republic of Trinidad & Tobago

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31<sup>st</sup> July 2024

## Media Release

### TATT explains Subscription TV “Blackouts”

When trying to view popular sporting events, for example the 2024 Olympic Games and other TV programming, some consumers with subscription TV plans — are being greeted by a “BLACKOUT” screen.

A “BLACKOUT” occurs when the broadcast rights of a particular programme, for example, the Olympic Games, are acquired (often exclusively) by a TV broadcaster. In such a case, other TV broadcasters are required by law **NOT** to broadcast the said programme as it would be a violation of the intellectual property rights of the broadcaster, who purchased the broadcast rights to the programme. This would also be a breach of a broadcaster’s obligations under its concession with TATT should it broadcast a programme that it does not have the right to broadcast. In compliance with the law and the concession obligations, the programme will therefore be ‘blocked’ by other TV broadcasters in the country who don’t have the right to broadcast the programme.

The Authority advises that persons who see a blackout when attempting to view the Olympic Games, can view the games on TTT Ltd., which is the authorized broadcaster, having purchased the broadcast rights to show the event in this country.

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*Directors: Mr. Gilbert Peterson, S.C. (Chairman), Dr. Kim Mallalieu (Deputy Chairman), Mr. Nikolaiski Ali, Mr. Keyun Boatswain, Mr. Nigel Cassimire, Mr. Rhondall Feeles, Ms. Fatima Aziz-Mohammed, Mr. Devon Seale, Ms. Kalana Prince- Wilson.*