



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO
MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Media Release

SEW STRENGTHENING PROJECT LAUNCHED – IMPROVING TRADE PERFORMANCE AND ENHANCING BUSINESS COMPETITIVENESS

June 29, 2016:- *‘Despite the TTBizLink’s successes, there are a number of gaps in the local trade and business facilitation architecture and in the operation of the Single Electronic Windows (SEW) which must be addressed. The need to alleviate these problems has led to the birthing of this project titled the Strengthening of the Single Electronic Window for Trade and Business Facilitation’* said Ms. Cynthia Gloria Hayes, Project Programme Manager at the Project Launch on Tuesday 28 June, 2016 at the Ministry’s Head Office.

This Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) sponsored project is designed to strengthen and transform the existing platform into a world-class solution based on international standards. The US\$25 million Project is scheduled for implementation over a five (5) year period. Ms. Hayes said that ***‘this project will seek to optimize and simplify foreign trade and business processes to reduce time and costs; improve domestic interoperability among national government institutions and external interoperability with trading partners; and modernize the governance and the institutional framework of the SEW’.*** She called for stakeholders’ full support on the project stating ***‘we have placed the plane on the runway and with your collaboration we can have a successful take off’.***



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Mr. Julien Belgrave, IDB Chief of Operation - Trinidad and Tobago, congratulated the Government, the Ministry of Trade and Industry and the IDB Project team on the excellent work thus far and expressed excitement about working on this project. He said ***'we are pleased to have the opportunity to continue the expansion of the already successful platform TTBizlink and I assure you that IDB will provide support every step of the way.'***

The Single Electronic Window was a concept introduced to the local business community in 2009, more commonly referred to as TTBizLink. The establishment of TTBizLink arose out of efforts to improve the country's ease of doing business, enhance its competitiveness, and instil a culture of excellence in Government. TTBizLink, the first of its kind in the Caribbean, is a secure business portal that provides 24/7 access to trade and business related government services via a single electronic platform.