



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

Media Release

TRADE AND INVESTMENT ARE THE ENGINES OF GROWTH FOR ANY ECONOMY

July 07, 2016:- The Trade and Investment Convention (TIC) 2016 themed 'Creating pathways for Business' was officially opened on Thursday 7 July, 2016 at the Centre of Excellence, Macoya. Speaking to the audience of buyers, exhibitors and specially invited guests, Mr. Norris Herbert, Permanent Secretary (Ag.) Ministry of Trade and Industry in delivering the Feature Address on behalf of the Acting Minister of Trade and Industry, the Honourable Camille Robinson-Regis said that ***'there can be no denying that trade and investment are the engines of growth for any economy and TIC provides opportunities for the creation of pathways through which trade and investment can flourish'***.

He urged manufacturers to move beyond the CARICOM markets and take advantage of the available bilateral trade agreements. He said ***'our manufacturers have demonstrated their ability to be innovative, agile and more importantly, competitive, they have the capacity and innovative products to penetrate new markets and earn much needed foreign exchange'***. He gave the commitment of the Government to provide financial and other support to strengthen local manufacturers export capacity. He stated that ***'the Government will focus on the negotiation of new market access arrangements, investment treaties, trade promotional activities, trade diplomacy and Government to Government arrangements. In addition, increased emphasis will be placed on encouraging and facilitating linkages between local firms with the Caribbean diaspora in key markets and building upon the advantages they may bring'***. In closing he encouraged businesses to use these challenging economic times as an opportune time to ***'invest in and trade externally with our business partners'***.

Dr. Rolph Balgobin, President, Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association in his Remarks told manufacturers that they have certainly blazed trails regionally and internationally and now, faced with the economic imperative presented by energy decline, we must blaze trails hemispherically. He said ***'we need to think local. The rest of the world is doing it, and we need to do it too. The economic transformation of Trinidad and Tobago has at least part of its future exhibited in these halls over the next few days'***.



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Other speakers included Mr. Rakesh Goswami, Executive Vice President, Strategic Alliance Enterprise; Ms. Karen Darbasie, Group Chief Executive Officer, First Citizens Bank; and Mr. Anand Pascal, President, Guardian Life of the Caribbean Limited.

The Trade and Investment Convention takes place from Thursday 7 – 10 July, 2016 at the Centre of Excellence. The Ministry of Trade and Industry's pavilion will showcase information on its bilateral trade agreements; investment incentives; TTBizlink's e-services; sectors of focus (Creative Industries, Maritime, and Yachting). Members of the public are invited to visit the Ministry's pavilion on Saturday 9 July and Sunday 10 July, 2016 to interact with our Consumer Advocates and Mascot 'Captain Consumer' to learn more about your rights and responsibilities as a consumer.