



# Media Release

## PUBLIC PROCUREMENT TRAINING HELD UNDER THE CARIFORUM-EU EPA

**August 24, 2016:-** The Ministry of Trade and Industry in collaboration with the CARIFORUM Secretariat and the European Union continued its Capacity Building within the Caribbean Forum of ACP States (CARIFORUM) in support of the implementation of the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) by hosting a one-day training workshop on 'Public Procurement' on Monday 15 August, 2016. The aim of the one-day workshop was to build capacity within the public and private sector, as it relates to the effective implementation of obligations related to Public Procurement, under the CARIFORUM-EU Economic Partnership Agreement.

Ms. Karlene Roach, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ministry of Trade and Industry in welcoming the participants to the training, said ***'procurement is a key strategic function, which is essential for the efficient and effective acquisition of goods, civil works and services in the fulfilment of an organization's vision and mandate. The CARIFORUM-EU EPA commits CARIFORUM countries and the EU to observe rules on transparency in government procurement. By promoting transparency and predictability, more suppliers are made aware of tendering opportunities and can feel assured that they enjoy equal opportunities. As a result, CARIFORUM taxpayers get a better deal in terms of price and quality for their money. On a wider level, accountability of public spending is improved and prospects for economic development are enhanced'***. She reiterated that ***'the training session is part of this Ministry's and, by extension, the CARIFORUM Region's on-going efforts to foster greater accountability and transparency within the focal area of public procurement, specifically as it relates to engaging in tendering procedures and business transactions within the markets of the EU'***.

She thanked the consultants Equinoccio from Spain, and the session facilitator, Mr. Adrian Chin, for providing the technical information to the various stakeholders present. Among the stakeholders at the session were representatives from the Ministry of Foreign and Caricom Affairs; Ministry of Tourism; Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs; Ministry of Finance; Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards; Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce; Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.