



Media Release

STRENGTHENING COMMERCIAL TIES WITH CUBA

November 10, 2016:- The Trinidad and Tobago flag flew high at the Havana International Trade Fair (FIHAV) 2016, which opened on Monday October 31, 2016 in Havana Cuba, with approximately thirty nine (39) local companies participating, both as Exhibitors and Professional visitors. The delegation which was led by Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry represented a range of sectors including: food, beverage, energy products, energy services, chemicals, paints, cosmetics, packaging, paper products and financial services.

The Minister met with a number of key private sector stakeholders aimed at promoting business with Cuba as well as investment opportunities in that country for the manufacturing sector in Trinidad and Tobago.

Minister Gopee-Scoon engaged in bilateral discussions with the Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment of Cuba, Rodrigo Malmierca Díaz on the strengthening of commercial ties. Minister Malmierca Díaz emphasized that, ***“Cuba is immersed in the process of updating its economic model. Cuba is seeking to diversify into new markets and efforts such as the FIHAV 2016 are focused on identifying new trading partners.”*** Minister Gopee-Scoon stated that, ***“Our local companies are ready to do business with Cuba, not just with exports, but also exploring the investment opportunities available in Cuba, in an effort to increase the country’s growth, create jobs and earn foreign exchange.”***

Senator Gopee-Scoon toured the Mariel Special Development Zone (ZED Mariel) accompanied by executives of the energy and manufacturing sectors in Trinidad and Tobago. Investing in ZED Mariel in the areas of plastic and glass packaging is to be pursued while the National Gas Company intends to cooperate with ZED Mariel for investments in the energy sector.