



Media Release

SENATOR GOPEE-SCOON – “LET US WORK TOGETHER”

December 8, 2016:- *‘This year, by any measure, has truly been a challenging one. However, the Government has been working assiduously to create solutions now and in the medium- and long-term. And our success will depend on us continuing to work together,’* were the opening words of Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry to the membership of the Chaguanas Chamber of Industry and Commerce (CCIC) at their Annual Dinner and Awards Ceremony held on Saturday 3 December, 2016 at Signature Hall, Longdenville, Chaguanas.

Minster Gopee-Scoon commended the awardees and briefly shared some of the initiatives being implemented by the Ministry of Trade and Industry in an effort to increase market access by creating opportunities for local exporters both regionally and extra-regionally. By way of example, she stated that ***‘the recent participation in this year’s Havana International Fair (October/November 2016) in Cuba of close to 100 business people from 39 local companies resulted in significant leads and valuable contacts and a greater appreciation of what it requires to do business with Cuba. Additionally, the successful trade missions conducted to the United Kingdom, the Netherlands and France under the recently concluded Fit4Europe initiative was a solid start to penetrating the EU Market’.***

Senator Gopee-Scoon reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to reshape the economy and called on the membership of this Chamber to join with the Government to create a business environment that will result in sustainable growth and diversification of the economy of Trinidad and Tobago. The Minister took the opportunity to thank the outgoing President Mr Richie Sookhai on his diligent and astute leadership over the past three years. She said ***‘I am confident that the Chamber is being left in a good place as you hand over the baton to your successor to continue the strategic work of the Chamber’.***

Mr. Norman Christie, BPTT's Regional President in delivering the Feature Address noted that Trinidad and Tobago is experiencing a period of immense changes and encouraged those present to **'give the gift of courage this Christmas'**. He said **'I want you to ensure that your acts of courage are underpinned by the truth and dispensed with preparation, love and reliance on God'**.

Mr. Richie Sookhai, President, CCIC in his Address called for improved domestic interoperability among national government institutions. He encouraged the members to expand their markets and work together to get through the current **'turbulent economic times'**.

Companies receiving Awards included Ansa McAl Group of Companies; T & Z Marketing Ltd; Bankers Insurance Co of TT Ltd; Novo Technology Inc Ltd; Cell Mates Limited; Signature Hall; Passage to Asia; Print Art Services Limited; and Labib Najjar