



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

Fuel Verification Exercise

REMARKS

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MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

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Good Morning

I deliver remarks today on behalf of Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon Minister of Trade and Industry who unfortunately is unable to attend because of Cabinet commitments, she nonetheless extends her best wishes to all present and reaffirms the Ministry's support for this initiative. Today as we launch the first phase of Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standard's (TTBS) **Fuel Verification Exercise**, we also advance the implementation of the Metrology Act No. 18 of 2004 and the new national measurement system. The Act which came into force in 2015 replaces the old Weights and Measures Ordinance and establishes new standards for weights and measures in congruence with the modern metric system.

2018 is landmark year for the modern metric system also known as the International System of Units (SI); and as this system continues to evolve it brings into even greater focus the work of the national standards body TTBS.

The Metrology Act mandates the Legal Metrology Inspectorate (LMI) at the TTBS to monitor and verify prescribed measuring devices used in trade including fuel dispensers to ensure the accuracy of fuel distributed at service stations nationwide. It is in response to this requirement that this verification exercise has commenced. Through these activities consumers will be assured that there is adherence to an acceptable tolerance level and that the motoring public continually and consistently receives accurate results and value for money when purchasing at the pumps.

The entire verification process is intended to protect both the supplier and the consumer. Ensuring no financial losses with the provision of an operational and accurate fuel dispenser. Where the pump cannot meet the criteria of providing an accurate reading it will be required to be removed from service to the public. The national population is therefore advised, within the upcoming months to look out for the TTBS verification seal which will be affixed to the pump's adjusting mechanism and a TTBS verification sticker which will be placed on the fuel dispenser confirming the pump from which they are purchasing has been verified and is accurately dispensing fuel.

This not only safeguards consumers but also engenders trust and confidence among the motoring public and while providing assurances that the quantity paid for is in fact received. **UNIPET** is commended for embracing this initiative as the Brentwood Service Station is the first service station to be verified by the TTBS in Trinidad and Tobago. Congratulations are extended to UNIPET on this milestone.

The improvement of not only the fuel dispensing system but the national measurement system is critical for the development of our country and how we interface with the world.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry supported by the TTBS, remains focused on increasing competitiveness in this instance through the provision of efficient, effective and internationally recognized inspection, certification, accreditation and metrology services in support of the country's national development strategy.

In the areas of standards and quality, the Cabinet approved National Quality Policy (NQP) is an essential instrument, ensuring the highest standards are met as the economy expands to support diversification and economic growth. It is anticipated that the National Quality Policy's implementation led by the TTBS will build specialist capabilities and enhance resources in quality related areas.

The National Quality Policy will also foster the development and effective enforcement of technical regulations and practices which support the production and creation of higher quality goods and services; ultimately leading to an environment where the quality of goods and services being traded is improved.

Metrology is one component of the National Quality Infrastructure which supports the National Quality Policy. Together these two mechanisms comprise the National Quality System of Trinidad and Tobago as mandated by law. The other elements of the National Quality Infrastructure are standards development, accreditation and conformity assessment systems which involve testing, inspection and certification.

Each quality infrastructure component is essential to production and offers a foundation for Trinidad and Tobago's expansion in global trade. The National Quality Infrastructure, however,

expands beyond the TTBS to a national network, which includes both public and private institutions and the framework within which they operate.

As the science of measurement and one of the pillars in the Quality Infrastructure metrology is integral to the National Quality Infrastructure since accurate measurements are pre-requisites of the Quality infrastructure.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry is aware that accurate measurements are essential for the assurance of efficiency and effectiveness in trade and in industrial production and further recognises that all enterprises need to embrace accurate measurement to ensure that the quality of their products and services can match or exceed their competitors and satisfy regulatory requirements.

The Government of Trinidad and Tobago, therefore through the Ministry of Trade and Industry will continue to provide unwavering support to the TTBS as it implements the various components of the Metrology Act. This exercise builds on the Government's commitment to provide a globally competitive market place, which protects the interest of both the consumer and the producer. A commitment that recognises the need to ensure that there is quality and accuracy of measurements in all areas of trade.

I thank you.