

SEWNEWS

STRENGTHENING OF THE SINGLE ELECTRONIC WINDOW FOR TRADE AND BUSINESS FACILITATION

REINTRODUCING SEWNEWS

As we continue our digitalization efforts, the Ministry of Trade and Industry is pleased to reintroduce SEWNEWS, our e-newsletter aimed at sharing important announcements on the latest development/updates and general information on both the TTBizLink platform and the Trade and Business Information Portal (TBIP). We will also be providing informational quick tips on navigating the TBIP and responses to frequently asked questions.

Beginning October 2023, SEWNEWS will be released on a monthly basis. As we aim to meet our stakeholder needs, we invite you to let us know what feature on the TTBizLink platform or TBIP you would like us to highlight by sending an email to mti-corporatecommunications@gov.tt.

TTBIZLINK FEATURES IN 2024 BUDGET

Minister of Finance, Senator the Honourable Colm Imbert highlighted the efforts of the TTBizLink team during his 2024 Budget presentation on October 2, 2023. In his remarks on the Ease of Doing Business in Trinidad and Tobago, Minister Imbert noted that TTBizLink was helping to facilitate the drive of our country's non-energy exporters to secure and expand export markets.

Speaking on the continuous upgrade of the Single Electronic Window, he said, **"The ongoing digitalization of processes is reducing the cost of businesses by allowing them to make online payments and directly download their approved documents."**

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LIFTING T&T'S DIGITAL PROFILE

The United Nation's 2023 Global Survey on Digital and Sustainable Trade Facilitation recently highlighted a marked improvement in this country's trade facilitation score, which increased from 34.41% in 2015 and 41.94% in 2021 to 63.44% over the past year. Cross-border paperless trade in particular, showed substantial gains, moving from 11.11% over the period to 55.56% in the past year.

This assessment follows attempts to improve our Regional and Global Trade Competitiveness in an evolving landscape where digital trade is no longer a choice. For more information, visit <https://www.untfsurvey.org/>.

TOP PERFORMING TRADE MODULES ON TTBIZLINK

Key import and export processes accessed by the trade sector on TTBizLink include Certificates of Origin required by importing countries as proof that the goods exported from these shores originated here. **To date, 319,808 applications for Certificates of Origin have been processed via TTBizLink.**

Other services that positively impact cross border trade are Goods Declaration and Permits and Licences.

These services represent a collaboration with seven (7) agencies. In fiscal 2024, several new services will be added to the Permits and Licences Service.



TTBIZLINK- MAKING TRADE AND RELATED APPLICATIONS SEAMLESS

"The enhanced TTBizLink platform makes trade and related applications seamless. Within a matter of a few clicks and verifications, documents are accessible to accelerate shipments."

Emil Ramkissoon, Export Director, New Wave Marketing Ltd.

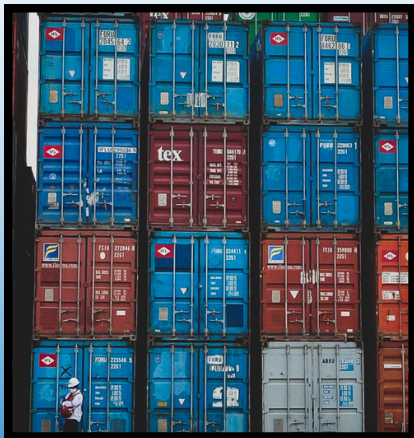


Minister of Finance Announces: 14 new e-services coming to TTBizLink

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Minister Imbert also announced plans for TTBizLink in the fiscal year 2024. These include plans to launch 14 new e-services on the platform. Additionally, the Minister announced the development of a new Port Community System to strengthen the interoperability of the major IT systems at our Ports, Customs and other border agencies.

“This system will facilitate the intelligent and secure exchange of information along the supply chain,” he stated. “It will allow for automation, management and optimization of port logistic processes at the ports of entry and exit and reduce costs for the clearance, movement and storage of goods.”



TTBizLink announces Online Payments Pilot Project with APHD

On September 22, TTBizLink announced the launch of its pilot project with the Animal Production and Health Division to only accept Online Payments for select TTBizLink Applications, with effect from September 25, 2023 after which, Offline Payments and Prepayments will no longer be accepted.

This pilot covers the following TTBizLink applications:

- Animal Import Permit
- Animal Export Permit- Dairy and Dairy Product
- Animal Export Permit- Meat and Poultry Product

Online payments for these applications will now be processed at the point of submission, eliminating applicants’ need to return to their applications after submission to make a payment, thereby increasing the efficiency with which such transactions are conducted.

Regarding this initiative, the Online payments can be made via Credit Card or Debit Card.

TTBizLink is committed to collaborating with stakeholders to continuously enhance existing e-services and introduce refined work flows to improve and strengthen the country’s digital profile.

For further clarification on this pilot project, please contact the TTBizLink Help Desk at 465-7649, 474-7802, 465-7658 or the toll-free number at 800-4739. The Help Desk is operational Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Alternatively, persons can send an e-mail to support.ttbizlink@gov.tt with the relevant details or, contact can be made with the APHD team at 625-5997.

Strengthening our Trade competitiveness

As the world of trade continues to develop and rollout paperless trade measures, Trinidad and Tobago continues apace with measures to support its own trade competitiveness in this evolving landscape.

TTBizLink today provides 36 services that facilitate trade and business.

This has generated economy-wide savings by contributing to the more efficient movement of goods, lower inventory costs, increased accuracy in data entry, and the timely availability of key documents via a system that facilitates enhanced regulatory control and compliance.

Need for All Hands on Deck

TTBizLink has no doubt contributed to shaping Trinidad and Tobago’s business environment and, in particular, its trading landscape. The successes realized to date would not have been possible without the ongoing collaboration and adoption of authorizing partner agencies, as well as the support of the business community. TTBizLink remains committed to partnering with all stakeholders as we continue to build a resilient economy and improve the ease of doing business in Trinidad and Tobago.

Did You Know...?

The Trade and Business Information Portal contains a wealth of information that explains current processes for a wide variety of government services accessed by the general public and the business sector.

Would you like to know more about government e-processes, fees, required documents, and approval time frames? You would find all this and more on the Trade and Business Information Portal.

This publication is produced by the Corporate Communications Unit of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.