



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Trade and Industry

MEDIA RELEASE

Minister Gopee-Scoon leads Trade Mission to Belize

30/1/2024: Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry, is leading a delegation from the private sector on a Trade Mission to Belize during the period 30 January to 3 February, 2024. The Trade Mission, organized by the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) and ExporTT, the National Export Facilitation Organization of Trinidad and Tobago, comprises twenty-three (23) companies from the food and beverage, transportation and logistics, oil and gas, marketing, and health services sectors.

Belize is a significant trading partner for Trinidad and Tobago, ranking as its fourth top export destination within CARICOM. Over the period 2019 to 2023, Trinidad and Tobago maintained a favourable trade balance with Belize where the average annual exports for the period was approximately TT\$126 million. The main exports comprised non-energy products such as cigarettes, beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic), paper products, glass bottles and pharmaceuticals. In 2022, Trinidad and Tobago was ranked as Belize's fifth top source for imports.

The country has a population size of approximately 400,000 persons and a substantial tourism population with approximately 400,000 visitors per year. These numbers present an opportunity for Trinidad and Tobago's exporters especially in the food and beverage sector.

This Trade Mission to Belize is a key project under the Export Booster Initiative, which is a strategic initiative of the Government of Trinidad and Tobago geared towards increasing the value of all non-energy exports.

The Trade Mission will include a Doing Business Seminar, Business to Business Meetings and Site Visits to Businesses. These will provide Trinidad and Tobago's exporters with networking opportunities, a chance to share market information and the opportunity to meet with potential buyers and agents.

In addition, the Honourable Minister of Trade and Industry will engage in bilateral discussions with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, the Minister of Agriculture and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance, Belize. A Meeting will also be held with the Belize Chamber of Commerce and Industry. These discussions will seek to strengthen trading relations between both countries which will advance the export prospects for local manufacturers.

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