



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

Media Release

TRADE & INDUSTRY MINISTER MEETS WITH FASHION COMMUNITY

August 16, 2016:- Members of the fashion community, including Meiling Esau and Robert Young, met with Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry on Monday 15th August, 2016, to share their thoughts on the development of the local Fashion Industry.

One of the major issues raised was the labor shortages facing Trinidad and Tobago which has a major impact on the Fashion Industry. Another key issue discussed as it pertains to labor is the realignment of fashion educational programmes to meet the requirements of the industry.

Designers also alluded to the impact of limited local production capacity on their businesses and their ability to fill large orders. As a result of this challenge they stressed the usefulness of a Fashion Production Cooperative which is specifically designed to meet their production needs. The Ministry committed to the exploration and development of such a facility through the Trinidad and Tobago Fashion Company (FashionTT) in partnership with the University of Trinidad and Tobago (UTT).

Other issues discussed included the need to efficiently market the local Fashion Industry to the international community. A recommendation was made that greater efforts are placed on collaboration with other Caribbean countries in marketing our fashion products which is in keeping with the recommendations emanating from the Strategic Plan for the Fashion Industry commissioned by the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI).

The MTI committed to creating an enabling environment where the Fashion Industry can thrive through the creation of an appropriate regulatory framework and equipping the FashionTT with the right resources to undertake their mandate.

