



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

Media Release

TRADE & INDUSTRY MINISTER MEETS WITH FASHION COMMUNITY

Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon visited Metal X Engineering Limited at its offices in Chaguanas as part of the Ministry's commitment and mandate to supporting business growth and expansion on Wednesday 17th August, 2016. The Minister noted that the **'metal and structural steel industry is very important in satisfying our nation's need for further development and is crucial to the infrastructure development of this country'**

The Trade and Industry Minister was led on a tour of the workshop and office facilities of Metal X Engineering Limited by its Chief Executive Officer, Mr. Labib G. Najjar. During the tour, the Minister noted the need for close collaboration between the Ministry of Works and Transport and the Ministry of Housing for development and adherence to building codes and standards whilst developing the nation's infrastructure.

At the site visit, the Honourable Minister was advised of the admirable relationship between the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) and Metal X, wherein Metal X provides a well-rounded training program that meets the standards set by the American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC). The program consists of both an academic and practical learning content for a one year duration, with three months being spent in the classroom and nine months in the fabrication workshop. Minister Gopee-Scoon said **'this programme is a wonderful marriage between the industry and education. It shows the company's dedication to the youth and employment in the industry. It ensures that well trained workers are produced to a high standard'**. She also had the opportunity to meet one of the potential trainees first hand and discuss with him his ambition and reasons for choosing Metal X.

Metal X Engineering Limited is focused on fabrication and the erection of steel structures. The Company has a long and varied history in the fabrication industry and was the first company in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean to manufacture and sell wheelbarrows, starting back in 1968.

Among the touring team were Mr. Norris Herbert, Permanent Secretary (Ag.), Ministry of Trade and Industry; Mr. Wayne Punette, Director Investment and other senior officials of the Ministry of Trade and Industry.



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