



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

# Media Release

## TRADE MINISTER COMMENDS COURTS STORES ON ITS BRAND SUCCESS OVER THE YEARS

**December 9, 2016:-** Unicomer officially opened its twenty first (21st) Courts Store on Friday 9 December, 2016 at its Unicomer Freeport Campus, Calcutta Settlement Road, Freeport. In delivering the Feature Address at the grand opening ceremony, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry lauded the Courts Stores for **'its dynamic brand and success in the local and regional electronics, furniture and appliance industry'**. She noted that **'the longstanding partnership with the Unicomer Group has added value to our economy over the past years. Direct investments, like the one we see here today, have expansive, positive, direct and indirect spillover effects on our society by shoring up local capabilities and talent, as well as supplying capital, technology and management resources'**.

Senator Gopee-Scoon in addressing the audience expressed pleasure to see, among the outcomes, the creation of employment for persons who live in the environs. She said **'this investment created 250 jobs during construction and is expected to generate some 500 permanent jobs when the full project is completed'**. She gave the assurance that **'the Ministry of Trade and Industry, and its agencies, remain firm advocates for investment that builds on our strengths, helps retain and create new jobs, builds competitive industries here at home; and helps to deliver our expertise to the world. Unicomer's resolve to strengthen its presence in our country reflects the viability and profitability of being here which therefore creates a win-win situation for both the Unicomer Group and Trinidad and Tobago'**.



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Minister Gopee-Scoon also reiterated the commitment of the Ministry of Trade and Industry to ensuring a facilitative environment for all businesses, whether they are small or large, domestic or foreign. In giving a challenge to the private sector, she said ***'Trinidad and Tobago has had many years of enviable economic growth, but this does not safeguard us from the challenges posed by volatile energy prices and global competition. As we set our sights on the goal of wider diversification and sustainable economic development, the Government encourages private sector players to follow Unicomer's example in fortifying their respective brands, and embracing innovation.'***

Mr. Mario Guerrero, Vice President and Managing Director, Unicomer Caribbean & USA, in his Address, indicated that the opening of the new store is but the latest manifestation of his Group's commitment to the country and the people of Trinidad and Tobago. He said ***'as we continue our expansion throughout the Caribbean, we invest with confidence in the future, creating new employment opportunities for many as we increase our retail footprint adding new stores and new chains to better serve the people of the 15 Caribbean countries we serve.'***