



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

Media Release

TRADE MINISTER CALLS FOR CONTINUED COLLABORATION ON DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES AT CARIBBEAN SECURITY FORUM

September 21, 2017:- Speaking at the Caribbean Security Forum hosted by the Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries (TTCSI) in collaboration with the Global Business Leadership Forum (GBLF) on Thursday 21 September, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon, Minister of Trade and Industry emphasised engagement with regional and international partners to address security issues affecting not only Latin America and the Caribbean but the wider global community. The Forum is aimed at developing strategies to curb global and national threats, with the principal deliverable being to devise a plan that is workable for all stakeholders.

Minister Gopee-Scoon noted that, ***“Our National Development Strategy 2016-2030, known as Vision 2030, in fact recognises that collaboration among actors and an integrated approach among many sectors is a prerequisite to addressing cross-cutting issues such as human security, among others. The areas featuring on the agenda transcend borders such that their transnational characteristics demand a transnational response”.***

She endorsed deepening stakeholder relationships and the strengthening of partnerships, particularly with the private sector, recognising the value of information-sharing and consultation.

The Minister called on the Forum to examine the multidimensional aspect of security in respect of the impact of natural disasters on CARICOM Member States. She said ***“The devastation wrought by hurricanes Irma and Maria, within days of each other, dictates such a focus; our people being our most valuable asset and a return to some level of normalization, as an absolute imperative in the shortest time possible”.***



In this regard, Minister Gopee-Scoon expressed her profound appreciation to the private sector ***“whose members, in support of the Government’s immediate response to the devastation, rapidly mobilized resources to support those negatively impacted by these cataclysmic weather systems. We are grateful for their ongoing collaboration and selflessness in service to those in dire need. ”***

Ms Angela Lee Loy, President Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries in her remarks indicated ***“No one person is responsible for curbing the scourge of crime in our society. No individual, no private entity, no political party. It is incumbent on us, as a collective unit to tackle the issues of crime and violence and to bring about a space that is more secure for us the citizenry and for our future generations to come. The experts we have here today and tomorrow have faced problems like these in their own countries and have been able to arrive at solutions by thinking out of the box, being creative and willing to see things through.”***

Mr Nigel Salina, Chief Executive Officer, Global Business Leadership Forum Limited challenged all present to come together to solve the issues of crime and security.

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