



# Media Release

## TRADE MINISTRY APPRECIATES THE SUPPORT OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY IN SAVING LIVES

**02 May, 2021:** The Ministry of Trade and Industry notes the responses of various segments of the business community in light of the announcement made by the Government on Thursday 29 April, 2021. The significant spike in the number of Covid-19 cases has once more brought high relevance of the need to balance lives and livelihoods during this pandemic. It is important that in times of public health emergencies, citizens direct their attention to the advice and directives of the public health specialists of the Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Trade and Industry acknowledges the sacrifice that the private sector, in particular the Micro, Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (MSMEs) has made over the past thirteen (13) months in relation to supporting the national efforts to combat the impact of Covid-19. Given the recent change in the public health environment, regrettably, it has become necessary that restrictions be implemented.

Despite these restrictions, the public is asked to note that several sectors and entities remain open for business. These include manufacturing, agriculture, energy, construction, financial services, banking, insurance, pharmacies, medical, dental, optical offices, supermarkets, groceries, markets, green grocers, bakeries and poultry depots.

The sectors that are required to close are encouraged to utilise alternative means to ensure their sustainability including the increased use and adoption of e-commerce technologies. The sectors which are allowed to operate are reminded that it is their solemn responsibility to strictly observe the relevant public health guidelines to ensure the health and safety of employees and customers.

Members of the business community are reminded that the additional sacrifice being requested at this time is meant to preserve the health and safety of their customer base, employees and by extension citizens of Trinidad and Tobago. Accordingly, if our national efforts are successful, it will allow the country's economy to emerge stronger. We wish to thank the private sector and business community for your continued support and understanding.

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