



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Trade and Industry

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT 2019

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1.0 Introduction

The Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) is responsible for spearheading the execution of Government policy under the remit of business development, trade, investment and consumer empowerment and continued its contribution towards the growth of the non-energy sector in Fiscal 2019.

To this end, the MTI developed its Annual Work Plan to execute its portfolio while meeting the growing demands for increased trade, business and investment in the non-energy sector. In this regard, the MTI pursued a number of initiatives to create an enabling environment to support economic diversification, international competitiveness, export and investment growth, and consumer empowerment.

During Fiscal 2019, the MTI successfully executed a number of initiatives identified within its Work Plan. These initiatives included pursuing reforms to improve the ease of doing business in Trinidad and Tobago and the continued implementation of the Framework for the Approval and Facilitation of Investments in the Non-Energy Sector, which aided in closing a number of investments. To further expand trade in Trinidad and Tobago, the MTI developed the Trinidad and Tobago Trade Policy 2019-2023 - Towards Sustainable Economic Growth and Diversification with a focus on promoting sustainable economic growth and diversification which was approved by the Cabinet. The new Trade Policy is aimed at expanding trade, increasing the country's non-energy exports and exploring new export markets.

To contribute to Trinidad and Tobago's economic diversification, the MTI continued implementation of the Grant Fund Facility (GFF) to provide working capital and/or seed capital through grant funding, to both start-ups and small businesses in the area of manufacturing. Through CreativeTT, MusicTT launched a software application that provides a fully functional booking site and app with a star rating system for evaluating artistes and venues in real time. Additionally, the MTI through FashionTT continued implementation of the Ultra Bespoke Tailoring Programme where a number of designers were certified to build domestic export capacity, and successfully position locally-produced tailor-made products in international markets.

Other accomplishments of the MTI during Fiscal 2019 are outlined in this Annual Administration Report 2019.

The MTI Annual Administrative Report for Fiscal 2019 includes the following areas:

1. MTI Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives;
2. Organisational Structure;
3. Policies and Development Initiatives and the Way Forward;
4. Financial Operations;
5. Human Resource Development Plan;
6. Procurement Procedures; and
7. Conclusion

2.0 MTI Vision, Mission and Strategic Objectives

2.1 Vision of MTI

“A dynamic, client oriented organisation delivering integrated, quality services for business growth, trade and investment expansion and consumer empowerment”

2.2 Mission of MTI

“To work as an innovative team, championing business growth, trade and investment for enhanced global competitiveness and promoting consumer interests for improved wellbeing”

2.3 Strategic Objectives

The MTI’s strategic objectives are guided by the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016-2030.

The development theme under the NDS relevant to the MTI, is:

“Theme IV: Building Globally Competitive Businesses.”

This Theme seeks to create a stable and predictable macroeconomic environment to allow for long-term social and economic prosperity; entrepreneurship; attracting investment, trade; and, producing high value products and services that can compete in export markets.

In order to contribute to Theme IV of the NDS 2016 – 2030, the MTI developed a Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020 to support the growth and expansion of cottage industries; medium to large businesses; investors; exporters; and to create an enabling environment.

The MTI’s Strategic Plan is supported by its annual Work Plan, which prioritizes projects and the efficient and effective allocation of resources. For Fiscal 2019, the MTI Work Plan included seventy-nine (79) targets. **Table 1** outlines the MTI’s Work Plan for the period. The successful targets are further outlined within the report.

Table 1: MTI's Work Plan Fiscal 2019

MTI Goal 1- Diversified and Competitive Business	
<i>Strategy</i>	1.1: Legislative, Regulatory and Administrative Frameworks revised or developed to create an Enabling Business Environment
	1.2: Government Services utilised by the business community improved to reduce inefficiencies
	1.3: Technical assistance and infrastructure support provided
MTI Goal 2- Increased Investment	
<i>Strategy</i>	2.1: Legislative, Regulatory and Administrative Frameworks revised or developed to attract investment
	2.2: Technical assistance and infrastructure provided to investors
MTI Goal 3- Expanded and Diversified Regional and International Trade	
<i>Strategy</i>	3.1: Legislative, Regulatory and Administrative Frameworks developed and implemented to grow exports
	3.2: New Trade Agreements negotiated
	3.3: Trade support and facilitation programme executed
MTI Goal 4- Enhanced Protection and Empowerment of Consumers	
<i>Strategy</i>	4.1: Legislation, regulation and administrative frameworks developed to empower consumers and encourage ethical business practices
	4.2: Research and education programme executed to enhance consumer protection and empowerment

MTI Goal 5- Transformed Ministry Performance and Service Delivery*Strategy*

5.1: Performance management systems revised and implemented

5.2: Internal and external communications programmes developed and implemented

5.3: Research systems to gather and analyse data on the Non-Energy sector developed and implemented

3.0 Organisational Structure

3.1 Organisational Profile

The MTI is the official public sector agency responsible for leading and overseeing implementation of government policy for business development, trade, investment and consumer empowerment. Its portfolio responsibilities listed in the Trinidad and Tobago Gazette of October 11, 2017, are as follows:

Commerce

- Anti-Dumping
- Competition Policy

Consumer Affairs

- Consumer Empowerment
- Consumer Protection
- Consumer Research

e-Commerce

Export Processing Zones

Incubating Local Industries

Industrial Parks

Industry

Metrology

Piarco Aero Park

Product Information

Product Quality Development

Technology Park

Trade

- Trade Agreements
- Trade Policy

3.2 Corporate Structure

The MTI's structure is designed to allow for strategy delivery, efficient processes and the achievement of planned outcomes. The structure comprises:

1. Minister's Office
2. Office of the Permanent Secretary
3. Directorates
4. Support Units
5. State Agencies

Minister's Office

The Minister of Trade and Industry has overall responsibility for defining the policy for trade, business development, investment and consumer empowerment.

Office of the Permanent Secretary (OPS)

The OPS is responsible for executive management of the MTI and its achievement of defined goals. The Office generally consists of the Permanent Secretary, Deputy Permanent Secretary, supporting staff and other senior managerial personnel. The Permanent Secretary is the most senior office with overall responsibility for the activities of the MTI. A second Acting Permanent Secretary has been temporarily assigned. The Deputy Permanent Secretary provides technical support to the OPS.

Core Directorates/Divisions:

The Directorates are core portfolio areas of the MTI with main responsibility for formulating policy, developing strategies and ensuring execution of the technical mandate of the MTI. The MTI has five (5) directorates. They are as follows:

1. **Business Development Directorate (BDD)** – plans and executes the business development portfolio of the MTI in order to contribute to the country's macroeconomic business development performance measures.
2. **Consumer Affairs Division (CAD)** – plans and executes the consumer guidance, protection and empowerment initiatives of the MTI in order to contribute to a fair business environment.
3. **Investment Directorate (ID)** – formulates and implements the investment portfolio of the MTI in order to contribute to the country's macroeconomic investment performance measures.
4. **Policy and Strategy Directorate (PSD)** – provides strategic planning, policy development and coordination services to the MTI. Through project management services, the PSD also ensures the efficient mobilisation of resources and execution of strategic projects such as the Single Electronic Window (SEW) for Trade and Business Facilitation (TTBizlink).

5. **Trade Directorate (TD)** - formulates and effects trade policy, legislative briefs, and strategies for the planning and execution of the MTI's trade portfolio in order to contribute to the country's macroeconomic trade performance measures.

Support Units

The Support Units provide essential services to the core directorates and the overall MTI through the development and management of the corporate-wide activities. The Support Units are as follows:

1. **Accounting Unit (AU)** - oversees and coordinates all financial operations of the MTI. The Unit ensures that accurate financial information is reported in a timely manner.
2. **Corporate Communications and Events Management Unit (CC&EMU)** - provides information to key internal and external stakeholders on a timely basis. The Unit also enhances the MTI's corporate image, and manages the MTI's relationship with key stakeholders.
3. **Corporate Services Unit (CSU)** – provides office management, procurement and facilities management services.
4. **Legal Unit (LU)** – provides legal advice and support to the MTI.
5. **Fair Trading Unit (FTU)** – ensures that the business environment is fair and free from uncompetitive business practices which hinder growth and development.
6. **Human Resource Unit (HRU)** – manages the selection and development of the human capital of the MTI.
7. **Information Management and Support Unit (IM&SU)** - provides technical and network support services to the MTI. The department is also responsible for transforming the MTI through information and communication technology.
8. **Internal Audit Unit (IAU)**- ensures conformity of the MTI with financial rules and regulations, instructions, policies and contract plans.

9. **Monitoring and Evaluation Unit (M&EU)** – ensures evidence-based decision making across the MTI and its Agencies

10. **Trade Licence Unit (TLU)** - administers the import and export of goods in accordance with applicable Laws and Government Policy.

State Agencies

The implementation of the MTI's policies is primarily facilitated through the work of its State Agencies. The roles, responsibilities and services provided by these State Agencies are outlined below:

1. Statutory Boards and Other Bodies:

- i. **Betting Levy Board (BLB)** develops and improves horse and dog racing, including the breeding of racehorses and dogs. The BLB also develops and improves benefits for jockeys, stable lads and monitors compliance with any rules relating to the operation of pool betting offices and pool betting outlets, including their opening and closing hours. The Betting Levy Board is governed by the Betting Levy Board Act No. 35 of 1989 which came into force on November 15, 1989. It has since been amended by Act No. 31 of 1991, and the Finance Act No. 5 of 1995.

- ii. **Fair Trading Commission (FTC)** is an independent statutory body responsible for implementing the Fair Trading Act. The main objectives are to promote and maintain effective competition throughout the economy, and to ensure that competition is not distorted, restricted or prevented, either by private business conduct or by public policy.

- iii. **Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS)** is a corporate body established on July 8th, 1974 and governed by the authority of the Standards Act No. 18 of 1997. The TTBS has a statutory responsibility to promote and encourage the development and maintenance of standards for the improvement of goods produced or used in Trinidad and Tobago (except food, drugs and cosmetics).

- iv. **Trinidad and Tobago Racing Authority (TTRA)** regulates and controls racing and the operation of race courses. As such, the Racing Authority plays a critical role in the

administration of Horse Racing, in particular, in ensuring that the integrity of the sport is upheld.

2. Wholly-owned Enterprises:

- i. **Evolving TecKnologies and Enterprise Development Company Limited (eTeck)** manages and optimizes the use of its existing industrial parks on a commercial basis and develops and improves the infrastructure and operations of new modern economic zones through, *inter alia*, public private partnerships that can expand and diversify Trinidad and Tobago's economic base. The Company also manages the assets of the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre and Magdalena Grand Beach and Golf Resort.
- ii. **Invest Trinidad and Tobago (investTT)** acts as a "one-stop-shop" for investors ensuring that they are provided with all the knowledge, tools, linkages and facilitation needed to efficiently navigate the way to new business opportunities in Trinidad and Tobago.
- iii. **Trinidad and Tobago Creative Industries Company Limited (CreativeTT)** stimulates and facilitates the business development and export activities of the creative Industries in Trinidad and Tobago in order to generate national wealth. The company is responsible for the strategic development of the three niche subsectors under its purview, namely, Music, Film and Fashion.
- iv. **Trinidad and Tobago Free Zones Company Limited (TTFZ)** is governed by The Trinidad and Tobago Free Zones Act Chapter 81:07 and is responsible for the operation of Free Zones in Trinidad and Tobago.

3. Majority Owned Enterprises:

exporTT Limited is designated the sole National Export Facilitation Organisation of Trinidad and Tobago. Its mandate is to generate export growth and diversification in the goods and services sectors.

4. Indirectly Owned Enterprises:

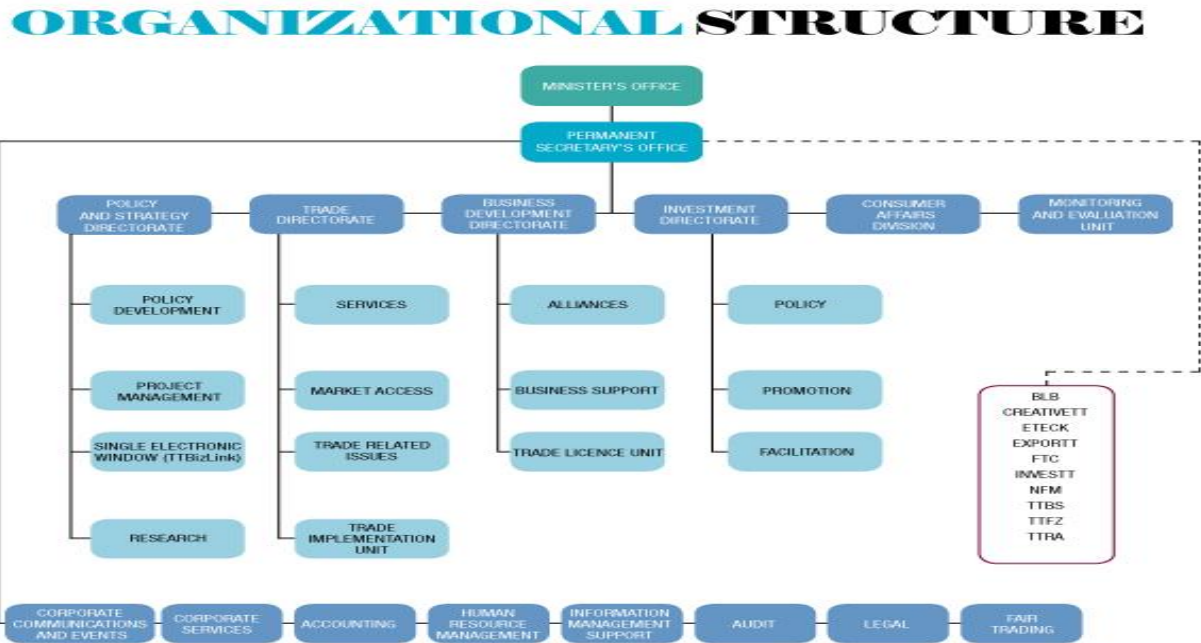
National Flour Mills Limited (NFM) is a local manufacturer in Trinidad and Tobago's flour and feed milling industries. The Company commenced trading activities in 1966

and has grown to provide services such as flour milling, rice milling, animal feed production, dry mix blending and packaging related thereto. NFM is a publicly traded Company and is partly owned by the GORTT.

5. Other Related Agencies

Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries (TTCSI) is a national umbrella body that brings together all services sector organisations and associations. It functions as a focal point to lobby, channel and address trade in services issues and services development issues, which are critical for the sector to thrive in the competitive global environment.

The following diagram outlines the current Organisational Structure of the MTI:



4.0 Policy and Development Initiatives

The initiatives pursued by the MTI in Fiscal 2019 were aligned to the *NDS 2016 to 2030* thematic area, “**Theme IV - Building Globally Competitive Businesses**”.

Theme IV of *the NDS 2016 to 2020* targets macroeconomic stability; entrepreneurship; investment and trade; and, the creation of high value products and services that can compete in export markets.

To contribute to the achievement of Theme IV, the MTI’s Strategic Plan 2016-2020 pursued the following strategic goals:

Goal 1: Diversified and Competitive Businesses

Goal 2: Increased Investment

Goal 3: Expanded and Diversified Regional and International Trade

Goal 4: Enhanced Protection and Empowerment of Consumers

Additionally, the MTI’s Strategic Plan sought to strengthen its institutional operations through the execution of initiatives under “*Goal 5: Transformed Ministry Performance and Service Delivery*”.

The achievements in Fiscal 2019 under these goals are outlined below.

4.1 Diversified and Competitive Businesses

The initiatives of the MTI are outlined in the Strategic Plan of the Ministry. These initiatives have been derived by several internal and external factors, such as:

- i. The need to generate sustainable employment and/or income generating opportunities;
- ii. The need to improve the competitiveness of T&T’s manufacturing and services sectors;
- iii. The need to improve the Ease of Doing Business current rank of Trinidad and Tobago;
- iv. Emerging business and investment opportunities;
- v. The on-going liberalisation of global trade;
- vi. The dismantling of preferential trading regimes by developed countries; and
- vii. The impact of recent global economic and financial crises.

As such, the MTI Work Plan considers these factors and has built a robust Action Plan to support the growth in the non-energy sector. The Action Plan has informed the work executed and is elaborated below.

1. Manufacturing

➤ Grant Fund Facility (GFF)

In August 2019, the Cabinet approved the Grant Fund Facility (GFF) now known as the “Extended Grant Fund Facility”. This Facility was expanded to facilitate the acquisition of new machinery, equipment, technology/software to the following new sectors:

- Financial Services;
- Maritime Services;
- Aviation Services;
- Fish and Fish Processing;
- Software Design and Applications; and
- Creative Industries.

Additionally, the Extended GFF provides funding of 50% up to TT\$250,000.00, of the cost of new capital requirements/expenditure, excluding working capital and land and building costs including leasing to businesses in the sectors identified.

In Fiscal 2019, four (4) companies received grants totaling approximately TT\$0.73 million (TT\$732,480.18). The projects funded in Fiscal 2019 have created direct permanent employment for twenty-one (21) persons in addition to the indirect employment opportunities created through economic linkages among industries. The disbursements under this Facility have benefited companies in various sub-sectors including, *inter alia*:

- Fish Processing;
- Food and Agro-Processing; and
- Manufacturing of packaging materials.

➤ Research and Development Facility (RDF)

The Ministry of Trade and Industry implemented a revised Research and Development Facility (RDF). This new facility supports activities promoting experimental development, industrial

research, and enhanced process and system improvements. In Fiscal 2019, the following achievements were recorded as follows:

➤ Three (3) new or modified products developed:

1. Caribbean Sea and Air Marketing Limited:

- Moruga Hill Rice Project - Modified two (2) Harvesters (including labour) for Track Adapted Rice Harvesters; and Roll over Cage and Stabilizer Bars; and
- Development of Animal Feed Silage - Organic Manure Systems, Organic Grass Defoliant, Monitoring Animal Health and Nutrition and Documenting Mixture Conversion Rate, and Nutrition Trials with Living Animals.

2. SafetyNet Ltd:

- Architectural Design (Web and Server); and
- OperAid mobile platform/process safety software.

3. Steven Edwards Productions:

- ICT Infrastructure, Content Development and Strategic Planning involved in the business of theatre for education. Theatre for Tots to Teens is done through all original Caribbean content, which may take the forms of digital and audio books, animation, videos, plays and even video games.

➤ One (1) Feasibility Study completed for Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company for a Market Research Study entitled, Assessment of Sustainability Standards and Market Potential for Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company Limited: Market Research Study - European, Caribbean and Domestic Market.

➤ **National Quality Policy (NQP)**

- Cabinet approved the establishment of the National Quality Council (NQC) on March 14, 2019. The key objective of the NQC is to champion the implementation of the NQP and monitor and evaluate its progress. As such, the role of the NQC involves the coordination of quality promotion activities; the prioritisation of the areas for funding; the

management of a multi-stakeholder approach for accomplishing the policy goals; and the recommendation of appropriate changes in the national quality infrastructure.

- Development of a National Programme for the Accreditation of all Public Laboratories – Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS) is currently working on accrediting two (2) of the forty-five (45) public laboratories in Trinidad and Tobago as the first step in having all such laboratories accredited.
- In December 2019, the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) approved a Technical Cooperation (TC) project for US\$250,000 for the establishment of the Trinidad and Tobago Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (TTASCA). The TC Project is expected to develop the legislation for the establishment of TTASCA and deploy capacity-building initiatives for various stakeholders.
- Implementation of the Metrology Regime - On June 30, 2019, the verification of all fuel dispensers throughout Trinidad and Tobago were completed for both UNIPET and NP. The Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards began sensitisation on the verification programme for market scales in August 2019. As such the verification programme commenced in October 2019.

➤ **E-commerce**

In Fiscal 2019, the MTI hosted its first e-commerce forum entitled “*Empowering Entrepreneurs through e-Commerce and e-Services*”, as part of the implementation of the National e-Commerce Strategy. To further develop e-commerce in Trinidad and Tobago, the MTI in collaboration with exporTT commenced the first of a series of training sessions in September 2019, aimed at new and existing Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs). These training sessions focused on important e-commerce topics such as: “*How to go Online*” and “*How to Market your Good/ Service Online*”. As at September 2019, sixty (60) SMEs were trained via these sessions and by the end of the Programme in November 2019 over 180 SMEs have benefitted.

2. Maritime Sector

The Official Policy Framework of the Government highlights Maritime as a sector that has an enormous potential to contribute to the sustainable growth and diversification of the economy through, *inter alia*, revenue generation, employment creation and foreign exchange earnings.

The Standing Committee for the Development of the Maritime Sector, established in 2016 and facilitated by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, focused on the implementation of projects to address matters integral to the commercial maritime and yachting industries.

In Fiscal 2019 the following initiatives were achieved:

- The Inter-Agency Committee for Transshipment and Cold Stacking chaired by the Ministry of Works and Transport developed Terms and Conditions for the legal, institutional and administrative framework for the expansion of transshipment and cold stacking of vessels in Trinidad and Tobago. Sixty million (TT\$60Mn) was generated in revenue from cold stacking of vessels;
- Trained a first cohort of seventeen (17) men between ages of 18 and 35 years in Fiscal 2017 and a second cohort of a further seventeen (17) in the On-the-Job Maritime Apprenticeship Programme to build capacity in welding and fabrication and create employment opportunities in the Maritime sector. This initiative was undertaken in collaboration with the Youth Training and Employment Partnership Programme (YTEPP) Limited and Caribbean Dockyard and Engineering Services Limited (CARIDOC); and
- Trained thirty (30) participants in sustainable and environmental practices for Boatyards and Marinas in Trinidad and Tobago to promote good environmental stewardship while contributing to the development of the Yachting industry.

3. Maritime Sub-Sector (Yachting)

Implementation of the Cabinet approved Yachting Policy 2017 to 2021 continued and the following initiatives were executed in Fiscal 2019:

- The implementation of the Yachting Policy positively impacted the Yachting sector in Trinidad and Tobago as yacht arrivals increased by 17% in 2018. This trend continued for the first quarter of Fiscal 2019;

- Facilitated the hosting of the Tobago Sailing Regatta in May 2019 to increase yacht arrivals and provide business opportunities for Tobago such as hoteliers, restaurants, security services, marine services and media services; and
- Facilitated an advertising campaign to increase yacht arrivals. The “Sail, Service, Stay” campaign featured monthly advertisements in two (2) Yachting magazines (Caribbean Compass and Caribbean All At Sea) for 2019.

4. Creative Sector Developments

During Fiscal 2019, the MTI embarked on a number of interventions that sought to grow and promote the Creative Industries’ three sub-sectors: Film Sector, Music Sector and Fashion Sector. The achievements within these sectors for Fiscal 2019 were as follows.

i. Fashion

a) Ultra Bespoke Tailoring Programme

In order to promote and develop the Fashion Sub-sector in Trinidad and Tobago, the Government launched the Ultra Bespoke Tailoring Programme in 2018. In Fiscal 2019, twenty-six (26) students graduated from this Programme, covering a range of areas including customized, bespoke tailoring and hand-sewn craft skills; pattern cutting and garment making; and adapting garments to various body shapes for comfort, style and elegance.

b) Fashion Standards

FashionTT in collaboration with the MTI, the Trinidad and Tobago Bureau of Standards (TTBS), the University of the West Indies (UTT) and other key stakeholders developed and completed a new national standard for the Fashion industry, known as “*A Guide for the Selection of Fabrics*”. During Fiscal 2019, this publication was completed and is available for sale at the TTBS.

The adoption of this standard by local designers and garment manufacturers will ensure that they provide their customers with detailed information about the garments being sold. Furthermore, this standard will play an integral role in improving product quality and performance, as well as the level of competitiveness and market access for the Fashion Industry.

c) Fashion Value Chain Investment Programme

The Fashion Value Chain Investment Programme is a strategic mentoring and training programme which provides support to eligible designers within four tiers—The Global Value Chain (GVC), the Non-Global Value Chain (NGVC), Business Advisory and Strategic Training. This Programme is geared towards supporting local designers in the Fashion industry to increase their sales, market access, export capacity and competitiveness.

In Fiscal 2019, ninety-nine (99) designers were trained through the Fashion Value Chain Investment Programme (FVCIP) to equip local designers to become more internationally competitive. Three (3) designers were selected for the Global Value Chain (GVC) Tier and eight (8) were selected for the Non-Global Value Chain (Non-GVC) Tier of the FVCP. The three (3) designers for the GVC will be trained in Fiscal 2020. The eight (8) designers that were selected and trained in the Non-GVC reported that their average sales increased between 11%-44%, with one designer increased sales by 135%.

All previous and current participants in the Non-GVC Tier reported that they are exporting to various countries such as South Korea, Israel, Australia, New Zealand and the Philippines. Some of the products exported included swimsuits, resort wear, ready to wear, couture dresses, leather sandals, hand bags and jewelry.

ii. Music

a) Live Music District

The Live Music District (LMD) was introduced by MusicTT to market local artistes at various venues throughout the country. Since its launch in March 2018, the LMD has provided local artistes with opportunities to showcase their talents at 35 of the 58 participating venues throughout Port of Spain and environs. Currently, 210 artistes have signed onto the LMD with a total of 640 performances. Phase 3 of this programme was launched in March 2019 with a total of 44 performances. The LMD was also featured as part of the Caribbean Festival of the Arts (CARIFESTA) XIV celebration that was held in Trinidad and Tobago in August 2019.

b) Music Tech Platform

The Music Tech Platform is a software application that was launched in September 2019 and provides a fully functional booking site and app with a star rating system for evaluating both

artistes and venues and which displays feedback in real time. The Music Tech Platform encompasses information on performance venues, music-related service providers, digital music platforms, etc. It also allows artistes to track their own radio plays in real-time on local broadcasting stations and is part of the Live Music District.

c) Artiste Portfolio Development Programme (renamed Spotlight)

The Artiste Portfolio Development Programme (now renamed Spotlight) was conceptualised with the intention of refining a portfolio of twenty (20) musical artistes annually whose talent can be exported globally. This one-year programme selects artistes who are on the verge of becoming export ready and grooms them to leverage their creative talent on the worldwide market. Local artistes participating in this programme increase the opportunity to receive record deals upon successful completion of the programme.

The first cohort of ten (10) artistes completed this Programme in January 2019. Two (2) have already penetrated the international market. One (1) artiste has toured Japan, Bali, Singapore, Australia, Canada and Portugal and the other was contracted to perform in Disney's The Lion King. The remaining eight (8) secured performances within Trinidad and Tobago.

d) Export Academy

- MusicTT collaborated with Caribbean Export and Trinidad and Tobago Coalition of Services Industries (TTCISI) to have a Business of Music Export online training on a two (2) day workshop. MusicTT provided twenty (20) participants to this programme and training took place from June 10 to 12, 2019 at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre Hotel.
- MusicTT in partnership with Launch Rokit, conducted a Startup Weekend from September 27 to 29, 2019 at the Abercrombie Tea House. Twenty-Five (25) persons pitched music business ideas. The top three teams were selected to have access to a three (3) month incubator to help develop their company ideas.
- The Forward Frequency Music Business Forum was held on September 21, 2019 at the Government Campus Plaza. This was a capacity building initiative for artistes, artiste managers, producers, songwriters and other stakeholders in the music business. It featured several well-known international music business executives. One hundred and twenty-five (125) persons participated.

iii. Film

a) Film Production

A series of films were produced in Trinidad and Tobago. These were facilitated by FilmTT which has a mandate to brand the country a preferred destination for films in the region. In Fiscal 2019, FilmTT facilitated twenty-one (21) foreign film productions in Trinidad and in Tobago generating over sixteen million (TT\$16Mn) in revenue. Approximately 500 nationals were hired, with approximately 400 hotel room nights booked. **Tables 2 and 3** below show revenue generated and a breakdown of Films facilitated during Fiscal 2019, respectively.

Table 2: Revenue Generated from Film Facilitation During Fiscal 2019

Total number of international productions in Fiscal 2019	21
Total \$TT spend Quarter 1-Quarter 4	\$16,543,030
Total number of locals employed	495
Total number of rooms	198
Total number of room nights (Trinidad and Tobago)	1040
Total number of locations (Trinidad)	70
Total number of locations (Tobago)	17
Country Breakdown	USA - 50% UK - 41% JAMAICA/BARBADOS – 9%

Table 3: Film Facilitated During Fiscal 2019

No.	NAME OF PRODUCTION	COUNTRY
1	World Race Productions/Riddums Productions - The Amazing Race	USA
2	Blue Marlin TV - Ainsley's Caribbean Kitchen	UK
3	Elizabeth Ramjit - New York University Thesis	USA
4	Good Lion Entertainment - The Unheard Ones	USA
5	Shaun Escayg - Birth of a Queen	USA
6	Like a Shot Entertainment - Abandoned Engineering	UK
7	Advance Dynamics Limited/Material Thinking UK - Vitamalt Commercial: The Royal Brew	UK
8	Eastern TV/VH-1 - Love and Hip Hop Atlanta	USA
9	Big Fish Productions/ VH-1 - Girls Cruise	USA
10	Riddums Productions/ Goldenvoice - Calypso Rose @ Coachella	USA
11	Caravan Media - The Wimbledon Kidnap	UK
12	Shaun Escayg - Birth of a Queen	USA
13	Wall to Wall Media UK/The Guppy Project - First Contact	UK
14	Wall to Wall Media UK/BBC - Who Do You Think You Are	UK
15	Harnarine Productions: Untitled Ian Alleyne Documentary – Untitled	USA
16	Core Design - Big Water Adventures	USA
17	BBC Studios: Olivia Evans - BBC News	UK
18	JussBuss Entertainment	JAMAICA
19	Milk & Honey Productions	UK
20	National Geographic/Tobago Tourism Ltd	UK
21	Trombone Productions/CLP Hero T20/Lonsdale & Saatchi	USA/UK
22	Creative Junction Inc/Richard Chin Fatt	BARBADOS

b) Locations Database

In Fiscal 2019, FilmTT also developed a Locations Database providing an easily searchable online catalogue of stunning and diverse film locations across Trinidad and Tobago. This database is accessible by both local and international producers and serves to market Trinidad and Tobago as a premier destination for film production.

c) Film Familiarisation Tour

In order to boost the country's attractiveness for producing films by international film producers, FilmTT hosted its first Film Familiarisation Tour and invited three (3) location managers from the United States of America and the United Kingdom during Fiscal 2019. These guests visited sixty (60) locations throughout Trinidad and Tobago to observe potential filming locations; and met with local film production professionals. This project promoted Trinidad and Tobago as a prime location for film production by highlighting some of the unique selling points across the country. This Project is expected to increase the number of incoming film productions, create possibilities for co-productions, jobs, and generate revenue.

d) Digital Platform (Moviesite)

A digital operating and data collection platform, "Moviesite" was developed and launched to improve FilmTT's internal operations (including rebate processing), improve sales and service response to all producers, and improve data collection and reporting on the industry.

e) Film Festival Partnerships

Sponsorship was provided to the following three (3) Festivals in 2019:

1. Trinidad and Tobago Film Festival - \$80,000;
2. Green Screen - \$48,000; and
3. Anima Caribbean - \$64,000

5. Business Environment Reforms

The viability of the Non-Energy sector depends on the ability of businesses to competitively produce and sell a diverse set goods and services. To improve the domestic business climate, the MTI executed a number of administrative and legislative reforms that address several areas pertinent to business operations, which will be implemented in the short-and medium-long- term. Key reforms include:

i. Ease of Doing Business

Notwithstanding Trinidad and Tobago's position at one hundred and five (105) out of one hundred and ninety (190) countries, according to the 2019 Doing Business Report, Trinidad and Tobago maintains a favourable ranking in the following indicators:

Getting Electricity – 41st

Getting Credit – 60th

Protecting Investors – 57th

Starting a Business – 76th

Resolving Insolvency – 77th.

ii. Single Electronic Window Achievements (SEW)

In Fiscal 2019, there were major advancements in the reforms under the Strengthening of the Single Electronic Window for Trade and Business Facilitation. This Project was made possible via an IDB Loan Funded Project valued at US\$25 million, which is aimed at improving a number of indicators in the World Bank Doing Business Report namely, Trading Across Borders, Dealing with Construction Permits and Paying Taxes.

The overall objective of this Project is to improve the trade performance and enhance the business competitiveness of Trinidad and Tobago through the strengthening and transformation of the TTBizLink into a world-class solution based on international standards. Major advancements in the three (3) main components under the Project for Fiscal 2019 are as follows:

Component I - Enhancing and expanding the services of the SEW (TTBizLink)

- ***Digitisation of the Paper-based Records of the Trade License Unit (TLU)*** -This project was completed in September 2019. After the digitisation of over 100,000 paper records, the operations of the TLU have now transitioned to facilitate paperless transactions. The Trade Licensing Unit of the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) is responsible for issuing Import Permits and Licenses for items listed on the Import and Export Negative Lists, as well as, issuing Minister's Licenses and Safeguard Mechanisms that allow eligible manufacturers to import raw materials and other inputs duty free or export items duty free to other member states within CARICOM. Digitisation of the records at the TLU will make the processing of

such Permits, Licenses and Mechanisms seamless thereby reducing the time and cost of doing business while improving the competitiveness of manufacturers.

- **Implementation of an Automated Construction Permitting System** – The project to develop this System, which is being led by the Ministry of Planning and Development (MPD) in collaboration with the Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), allows applicants to apply for Construction Permits electronically thereby drastically reducing the related costs and time for acquiring various Construction permits. This consultancy is valued at US\$ 2.1 Mn and a three (3) month Pilot Project was launched in first quarter of March 2020 in the City of Port of Spain under its branded name, DevelopTT.
- **Implementation of an Electronic Funds Framework** –This Project has resulted in the completion of an Electronic Funds Transfer Policy on March 22, 2019 and will eventually lead to the successful implementation and administration of an electronic payment and receipts system for the Government.
- **Implementation of a Cloud Based Solution** – This Project was completed in September 2019 and resulted in a complete upgrade and migration of the SEW's operating system from an on-premise legacy environment to a cloud-based solution. This will result in increased operating performance and reduced maintenance costs of the SEW.

Component II - Enhancing the Interoperability of TTBizLink.

- **Advisory Services to Upgrade the Website of the Central Statistical Office (CSO)** - This Consultancy was led by the Central Statistical Office (CSO) to upgrade the existing CSO website to allow the public and other stakeholders to obtain accurate data more easily. The newly improved website, which was completed in August 2019, provided additional features such as added security and encryption, integration with Google Analytics and a greater level of usability and accessibility for the public.

Component III - Modernizing the Legislative and Institutional Framework for International Trade and Institutional Governance of the SEW

- **Consultancy to Undertake Business Process Reengineering Description** - This Consultancy sought to simplify, modernize and harmonize the major regulatory processes for import, export, transit and business facilitation services in Trinidad and Tobago thereby improving the Trading Across Borders indicator of the World Bank Doing Business Report. A comprehensive analysis was done across thirteen (13) trade-related Agencies/Ministries with the aim of making recommendations to improve the procedures and processes in keeping with international best practice. The Consultancy was completed in April 2019 at a cost of US\$734,794.

6. New Economic Spaces

The diversification thrust also involves the creation of new economic spaces such as the Alutech Facility at the Tamana In Tech Park, the Moruga Agro-Processing and Light Industrial Park and the Phoenix Park Industrial Estate as addressed in Section 4.2

4.2 Increased Investment

Investments are a critical component of the National Development Strategy (NDS) 2016-2030 goals; as a result, the MTI focused on delivering policies and projects that sought to improve the investment climate and grow investments

During Fiscal 2019, the Government closed investments worth TT\$476,609,636 million which provided approximately 338 employment opportunities in various non-energy industries including:

- Manufacturing - TT\$200,218,188;
- Construction - TT\$205,759,062; and
- Maritime - TT\$10,200,000.
-

The MTI investment achievements for Fiscal 2019 included the following initiatives.

1. Industrial Parks and the creation of New Economic Spaces

A critical part of the Government's campaign to promote and attract investment is the development and operationalisation of economic spaces in strategic locations throughout Trinidad and Tobago.

i. Tamana In-Tech Park - Alutech Facility

The construction of the Alutech Facility at the Tamana In-Tech Park continued during Fiscal 2019. The Facility is being constructed by Shanghai Construction Group (S.C.G.) Caribbean Group Limited and managed by eTeck. The Alutech Facility is expected to be completed in Fiscal 2020 and is the first of its kind in the Caribbean which focuses on the production of wheel rims, coils, billets and other downstream aluminium products, mainly for foreign markets. The economic benefits of this Project include the creation of approximately one hundred (100) direct jobs and more than five hundred (500) indirect jobs, as well as the potential to generate approximately US\$1.2 billion in export earnings over the next twenty (20) years.

ii. Moruga Agro-processing & Light Industrial Park

In Fiscal 2019, work on the Moruga Agro-Processing and Light Industrial Park was seventy-nine percent (79%) completed.

The Park occupies approximately eighteen (18) acres and comprises five (5) factory shells with potential for processing Moruga Hill rice, cassava and other root crops, fish, pineapple and other fruits, cocoa and peppers.

The five (5) specialised factory shells, each with an area of 372m², are being designed to facilitate the processing of hot peppers, fish, root crops, cocoa and fruits. An area has already been identified for the cultivation of Moruga Hill Rice for export. The tenanting of the Park is being led by eTeck and InvestTT, in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Land and Fisheries and the National Agricultural Marketing Development Company (NAMDEVCO). Support has also been provided by Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA), Agricultural Development Bank (ADB), and Caribbean Industrial Research Institute (CARIRI).

iii. Phoenix Park Industrial Estate (PPIE)

The Phoenix Park Industrial Estate (PPIE) spans one hundred and thirty-three (133) acres and targets high value and light manufacturing, warehousing and distribution, and emerging industries such as electronic technology and biotechnology.

On 20 February 2019, BCEG and eTeck signed a Contract Agreement for the development of the PPIE. Under the current engagement, BCEG has committed to bringing at least ten (10) Chinese firms following its construction. Some firms that have already indicated their interest include the manufacturing/assembly of:

- Air conditioners;
- Automobiles;
- Industrial machinery;
- Medical devices;
- Building materials; and
- Power transmission equipment.

To ensure that the PPIE is a success, it is being marketed globally and in China, in particular the Chinese Central Government, and the Beijing and Shanghai Municipal Governments. The Work Plan in Fiscal 2019 included cooperation with investment-related agencies as well as active participation by BCEG in:

- China International Fair for Investment and Trade (September 2019);
- Beijing-Trinidad and Tobago Investment Symposium (October 2019); and
- 11th China Foreign Investment Fair (November 2019).

BCEG will source at least 60% local labour and purchase at least 50% of the building materials locally.

This will be a profitable and successful project bringing employment opportunities to the people of Central and South Trinidad, namely Pointe-a-Pierre, San Fernando, Plaisance Park and Claxton Bay. Over one thousand (1,000) jobs will be created during the construction period and when fully operational, more than four thousand five hundred (4,500) jobs are expected.

iv. Special Economic Zones (SEZ)

In keeping with its commitment to support diversification and boost international competitiveness, while complying with international standards, the Cabinet approved a Revised SEZ Policy for Trinidad and Tobago in July 2019.

The new SEZ regime will comprise Zones which are meant to not only diversify the number and type of industries, but also allow the Government the flexibility to strategically locate these Zones and their activities in specific areas across the country that are most appropriate. The SEZ regime will comprise the following Zone types:

- Free Port - A duty free area, located at a port of entry where imported goods may be unloaded for warehousing, repackaging or processing of imported goods for value-adding activities.
- Free Trade Zone - A duty free area that accommodates specific activities targeted for international trade
- Industrial Park - A purpose built industrial estate that leverages domestic and foreign fixed direct investment in value-added and export-oriented manufacturing industries.
- Specialized Development Zones - a place designated for specialized activities including (i) manufacturing; (ii) maritime services; (iii) aviation services; (iv) fishing and fish processing; (v) agriculture and agro-processing; and (vi) software design and applications; (vi) creative industries; and (viii) financial services.
- Development Zone - activities focused on the development of a specific geographic region with emphasis on factors such as employment, skills training, entrepreneurship and rural development and overall social and economic development of the area

Also included is the 'Single Zone Enterprise', which is a Zone that is restricted to one business entity engaged in any of the activities allowed under the "Specialized Zone".

This Policy, among other things, will modernize and strengthen the existing investment framework and incentivise domestic and foreign investments in areas of strategic importance.

The implementation of this Revised SEZ Policy is being led by a Cabinet appointed Inter-Ministerial Committee. The MTI is currently working with the Chief Parliamentary Council of the Ministry of the Attorney General and Legal Affairs, as well as the SEZ Inter-Ministerial

Committee to further develop the legal provisions of the proposed SEZ legal and regulatory framework. Valuable consultations were held with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) to ensure that the SEZ provisions were in line with international best practice.

The Government has committed to enacting SEZ legislation in 2020, which is in line with Trinidad and Tobago’s commitments under the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Inclusive Framework. A key aspect of the SEZ regime is a new incentive framework that is consistent with the requirements as currently set out by the OECD BEPS Inclusive Framework and the European Union’s Code of Conduct Group (CoCG). This new incentive framework will enhance the investment climate of Trinidad and Tobago, while also protecting the domestic revenue base to the greatest extent possible.

Key aspects of the incentive framework, which are strategic and time-bound, include:

- Reduction in the Corporate Income Tax;
- Allowances and credits that seek to encourage reinvestment, compliance and research and development; and
- Procedures to enable quicker operationalisation through, among other things, TTBizLink.

v. Framework for the Approval and Facilitation of Investments in the Non-Energy Sector

In April 2017, Cabinet approved a new Framework for the Approval and Facilitation of Investments in the Non-Energy Sector to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness in accelerating targeted investments. In Fiscal 2019, under this Framework, the MTI facilitated four (4) non-energy investment projects in the manufacturing sector estimated at TT\$310.7 million. **Table 4** refers.

Table 4: List of Projects Facilitated under the Framework for Approval and Facilitation of Investments in the Non-Energy Sector

Company Name	Business Activity	Estimated Investment TT\$	Estimated Employment
Home Solutions	Apartment building in Mausica	65,500,000	70

Company Name	Business Activity	Estimated Investment TT\$	Estimated Employment
Limited	Arima		
Harkness Energy Limited	Construction of a service station and retail outlet	20,000,000	46
Edan K Properties	Construction of a Warehousing complex at Point Lisas	105,259,062	29
Associated Brands Limited	Manufacture of snack foods, chocolate, confectionary, biscuit and breakfast cereals	120,000,000	N/A
TOTAL		310,759,062	145

vi. Magdalena Grand Beach and Golf Resort

In Fiscal 2019, the evaluations and recommendations for an internationally recognised operator for the Magdalena Grand Resort and Golf Resort were completed. This is a critical component for the marketing of Tobago's tourism product.

4.3 Expanded and Diversified Regional and International Trade

Given the role exports play in driving macroeconomic development, the MTI strengthened its efforts to support businesses that export Trinidad and Tobago's goods and services. In this regard, the MTI pursued trade agreements, developed export capacity and provided loan financing to exporters. Initiatives executed in Fiscal 2019 are outlined below as well as top ten (10) increases of exports in the non-energy sector for the period January to September 2018 versus January to September 2019. **Table 5** refers.

Table 5: Top 10 increases in non-energy exports, Jan-Sept 2018 vs Jan-Sept 2019

	Jan-Sept 2018	Jan-Sept 2019	TT\$ increase
22029090:OTH. NON-ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES EXCL. FRUIT OR VEG.	\$72,615,419.83	\$110,923,785.62	\$38,308,365.79
25010020:OTHER TABLE SALT	\$4,171,328.87	\$39,837,278.24	\$35,665,949.37
26179000:ORES AND CONCENTRATES N.E.S. EXCL ANTIMONY ORES	\$7,756,937.98	\$27,391,182.69	\$19,634,244.71

	Jan-Sept 2018	Jan-Sept 2019	TT\$ increase
39233010:BOTTLES OF PLASTICS	\$42,615,403.09	\$62,131,102.27	\$19,515,699.18
73089000:OTH IRON/STEEL STRUCTURES & THEIR PARTS	\$21,208,269.96	\$40,325,675.76	\$19,117,405.80
72142090:INDENTED NON-ALLOY BARS/RODS	\$2,301,272.59	\$19,443,631.99	\$17,142,359.40
18063100:CHOCOLATE & OTH COCOA PREP (BLOCKS); FILLED	\$57,301,088.81	\$74,432,226.29	\$17,131,137.48
19049000:PRE-COOKED/PREPARED FOODS FROM CEREALS NES	\$179,726,032.37	\$196,624,082.34	\$16,898,049.97
19041000:PREP. FOOD FROM ROAST/SWELL CEREAL	\$62,914,433.80	\$79,465,267.91	\$16,550,834.11
49019990:PRINTED BOOKS, LEAFLETS & SIMILAR PRINTED MATTER, NOT IN SINGLE SHEETS.	\$26,291,695.34	\$40,010,475.75	\$13,718,780.41
TOTAL	\$7,734,572,966	\$10,365,940,230	\$2,631,367,264 (34%)

Source: Central Statistical Office 2019

1. Trinidad and Tobago Trade Policy 2019-2023

With the expiry of the Trade Policy 2013 to 2017, the MTI engaged the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (UNECLAC) and conducted extensive consultations both in Trinidad and in Tobago and developed a Draft Trade Policy 2019 to 2023. The Policy was approved by the Cabinet in August 2019 and was officially launched on September 25, 2019 and is being implemented by two (2) implementation Committee—the Cross-Agency Implementation Committee (CIC) and the Trade Policy Technical Working Group (TPTWG), which will provide support to the CIC.

This new National Trade Policy and Strategy (2019-2023) will articulate government's trade-related policies aimed at enhancing and diversifying the country's economy and exports and increasing its earnings of foreign exchange. This emerged as a policy priority in view of the countries falling oil production, declining competitiveness in petroleum refining and traditional over-reliance on the energy sector. As such, the GORTT is committed to diversifying the economy and its exports.

The medium to long-term remedy for delivering broad-based export growth, particularly at the high-value exports, lies in restructuring the domestic economy towards increasing production and trade in emerging areas with comparative advantage across the goods and services

sectors. The new Trade Policy and Strategy will comprehensively explore this notion. Key sectors for export diversification will be identified and the appropriate elements of the policy framework to support their development clearly articulated. Moreover, the private sector will play a central role in the industrial restructuring and export diversification process, and therefore shall be embedded within the framework of wider public policy intervention.

The objectives of the Trinidad and Tobago Trade Policy 2019-2023 are to:

- increase the value and volume of non-energy exports of goods and services;
- create an improved facilitative and enabling environment for trade, business and investment;
- grow the production and export of high value-added goods and services; and
- increase the country's share of CARICOM trade, inclusive of trade in services.

2. Aid for Trade Strategy

The Trinidad and Tobago's Aid for Trade Strategy 2016-2019 was approved by Cabinet on December 22, 2016. This Strategy consists of several proposed key donor-funded projects to enhance trade development. Some of the projects outlined in the Strategy included the following:

1. *Building a Quality Culture in Trinidad and Tobago – Implementation of the National Quality Policy*: - This project is expected to enable a shift in the Quality Culture of Trinidad and Tobago, as well as, adopt a more targeted, effective and consistent approach.
2. *Establishment of a Trade Facilitation Enquiry Point*: - This facility will assist in building capacity which promotes the availability of information on legislation, procedures and fees and charges, as far as possible through electronic means and the need for timely and regular dialogue with economic operators on customs and trade procedures, especially for Article 32 - Relations with the Business Community of the CARIFORUM-European Union Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) and the CARIFORUM-United Kingdom EPA.
3. *Developing export readiness of Trinidad and Tobago companies to the EU (Fit 4 Europe II)*: - This project is aimed at executing a second phase entitled Fit 4 Europe II.
4. *Establishment of the Trinidad and Tobago Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (TTASCA)*.

One of the aforementioned projects of the Aid for Trade Strategy was the establishment of an independent accreditation body to be established as a Body Corporate, under the name Trinidad and Tobago Accreditation Service for Conformity Assessment (TTASCA). This Project which was Cabinet approved in December 2018, will seek to assist companies to achieve international recognition which perform quality assessment services of testing, calibration, certification and inspection for Trinidad and Tobago in conformance with international and national standards. This will enhance export competitiveness, economic diversification and protection of national health and safety with regard to the quality of goods and services offered by Trinidad and Tobago.

The TTASCA will be established with its own Act of Parliament and Regulations for the accreditation of all conformity assessment bodies, and with a Board of Directors under the purview of the Ministry of Trade and Industry. This will require amendments to the Standards Act and Regulations to remove the accreditation functions from the TTBS. In addition, new legislation will be necessary to expand TTASCA's scope of activities to move beyond TTLABS's current remit of the accreditation of laboratories and to include the accreditation of inspection and certification bodies as well.

During fiscal 2019, the implementation of the establishment of TTASCA commenced. Compete Caribbean and the IDB stated that this Project met the criteria for funding under Pillar Two of the Compete Caribbean Partnership Facility entitled *Enhancing the Business and Innovation Climate*. The MTI conducted meetings with Compete Caribbean Representatives to finalise project documents. Documents were finalised and submitted to Compete Caribbean for approval of funding on August 8, 2019.

3. Trade Agreements

During Fiscal 2019, Trinidad and Tobago expanded market access opportunities in new and existing markets. This is in keeping with its mandate to pursue an agenda of negotiating new and existing free trade agreements to support development of the country's export-competitive structure.

i. CARIFORUM-UK Economic Partnership Agreement

Trinidad and Tobago, as part of the Caribbean Forum of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (CARIFORUM) negotiated and signed an Economic Partnership Agreement (EPA) with the United Kingdom (UK). The Agreement was signed by His Excellency Orville London, Trinidad and Tobago's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (UK) on April 1, 2019. The CARIFORUM-UK EPA is a roll-over Agreement of the CARIFORUM-European Union (EU) EPA and aims to preserve the Region's preferential trading relationship with the UK, in the case of UK's departure from the European Union.

ii. WTO – Agreement on Trade Facilitation

Trinidad and Tobago, through its National Trade Facilitation Committee (NTFC) has been working towards implementation of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Trade Facilitation (TFA). The benefits of implementing the TFA include greater transparency in importation and exportation procedures, reduced bureaucratic processes and procedures at the nation's ports, thereby contributing to greater efficiency and improved export competitiveness.

Trinidad and Tobago notified the WTO of the definitive timeframes for implementation of its Categories B and C commitments on 24 September 2018 after finalisation by the NTFC and approval of the Cabinet. Some of the other key achievements of the NTFC during the period included:

- Notification under Article 22.3 of the TFA regarding Trinidad and Tobago's contact points for the coordination and prioritisation of trade facilitation-related assistance and support for capacity building to WTO; and
- Participation in discussions at the CARICOM level to coordinate Regional implementation of the TFA.

It is to be noted that national implementation of the TFA is also being pursued under the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) funded programme for Strengthening of the Single Electronic Window for Trade and Business Facilitation under the MTI. In particular, the following projects assist with meeting Trinidad and Tobago's commitments under the TFA; consultancy for Business Process Re-engineering which will assist with achieving common border procedures and uniform documentation requirements; development of a trade information portal

to assist with meeting transparency obligations; implementation of an electronic funds transfer framework; an integrated risk management for customs control; and legislation to give effect to the TFA in Trinidad and Tobago.

iii. TT-Chile Partial Scope Trade Agreement

Trinidad and Tobago and Chile formally completed exploratory discussions for a PSTA in December 2017. During these discussions, both countries exchanged trade and economic information, as well as an initial list of products of interest and Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements.

Chile indicated an initial interest in exporting eleven (11) products to Trinidad and Tobago, namely grapes, apples, onions, pork, sheep, turkey, salmon, wood doors and virgin olive oil. Trinidad and Tobago identified a preliminary list of seventy-six (76) products from various sectors including energy, agriculture, food and beverages, paper, iron and steel and cosmetics. In August 2018, Cabinet agreed that Trinidad and Tobago proceed to advance negotiations for a PSTA with Chile. Trinidad and Tobago and Chile convened the First Coordination Meeting towards negotiations of the PSTA on August 2, 2019.

Discussions were held on arrangements for the negotiations, including the scope of the proposed Agreement, negotiating schedule and terms of reference for the negotiations. At this meeting Trinidad and Tobago also proposed the simultaneous negotiation of a bilateral Air Services Agreement and a Double Taxation Treaty alongside the PSTA. Both countries are working towards finalizing arrangements to commence negotiations.

iv. TT-Panama PSTA

In Fiscal 2018, Cabinet approved a five-year National Implementation Plan for the Agreement (October 2018-September 2022) which sets out to *inter alia* establish Agreement Coordinators to serve as contact points for communication, establish the Joint Administration Commission to oversee all matters covered by the Agreement, implement tariff reductions and conduct stakeholder awareness sessions on the opportunities and requirements under the Agreement.

In Fiscal 2019, both Trinidad and Tobago and Panama identified their Agreement Coordinators and are working to convene the First Meeting of the Joint Administration Commission under the Agreement in October 2019.

v. TT-Curaçao PSTA

Trinidad and Tobago held a meeting of the Cabinet approved Working Group towards a Partial Scope Trade Agreement (PSTA) with Curaçao on February 1, 2019. During this meeting, both sides reviewed the Draft General Framework for negotiation of a Preferential Trade Agreement between the Kingdom of the Netherlands on behalf of Curaçao and Trinidad and Tobago. This document was prepared by Curaçao. Subsequently Trinidad and Tobago reviewed and provided comments on two separate occasions, March 19, 2019 and May 16, 2019, respectively on Curaçao's proposed General Framework for Negotiation and has received feedback on same from Curaçao. Trinidad and Tobago has amended the General Framework Agreement to include the comments and feedback from both sides.

vi. African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) – European Union (EU) Cotonou Partnership Agreement

The African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) and European Union (EU) sought to have a new partnership agreement prior to the expiration of the Cotonou Partnership Agreement (CPA) on February 29, 2020. It was agreed that a Post-Cotonou Agreement would comprise a Foundation Agreement covering all of the ACP and be complemented by three (3) separate Regional Protocols with constituent ACP regions. The Regional Protocols would permit for regional specificities to be addressed while maintaining all ACP approach to ACP/EU relations through the Foundation Agreement.

In Fiscal 2019, four (4) Meetings of the Advisory Group established to provide technical guidance on the Regional Protocol for the Post-Cotonou Negotiations were held. At every level of discussion MTI submitted Trinidad and Tobago's positions on the different draft texts to the CARIFORUM Directorate. Trinidad and Tobago also submitted a request to the CARIFORUM Directorate to include a chapter on Manufacturing and Industrialisation in the draft Regional Protocol on April 12, 2019. This proposal was subsequently accepted.

4. Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA)

Trinidad and Tobago participated in the 8th Meeting of the CARICOM-United States Trade and Investment Council (TIC) in Miami, Florida in June 2019, which covered areas including trade preferences under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI), trade in services, intellectual property rights, US-Caribbean 2020 Strategy, and the WTO Trade Facilitation Agreement.

Trinidad and Tobago and the United States agreed to jointly develop a work programme to address the challenges of improving copyright enforcement in Trinidad and Tobago. The United States Trade Representative (USTR) suggested four components to the work programme, including:

- actions to enforce the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago's (TATT) concessions agreement;
- greater transparency and clear procedures for timely resolution of complaints in proceedings to enforce copyright protections;
- legislative updates to combat online copyright piracy; and
- technical assistance and capacity building.

In respect of the WTO waiver to permit the US to legally provide preferential treatment to eligible products from countries under the CBERA, a request was made to the WTO in June 2019 by the US for the extension of the waiver to September 30, 2025. The MTI submitted its comments towards the USTR's Thirteenth Report on the Operation of the CBERA on August 29, 2019.

5. CARICOM COUNCIL FOR TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT (COTED)

Trinidad and Tobago attended the 48th Meeting of the CARICOM's Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED) in April 2019 in Guyana. Trinidad and Tobago's participation at Meetings of COTED ensures that national interests, especially as it relates to the waiver of customs duties in the form of Common External Tariff (CET) suspensions on key inputs used in manufacturing and other basic food items, are met.

6. COMMON EXTERNAL TARIFF (CET)

At the 48th Meeting of COTED, Trinidad and Tobago's request for suspension of the CET on a selected list of items was approved. Some of the items included Powdered Milk, Virgin Olive Oil, Canola Oil and a List of Public Health Supplies, which were due to expire in May and August 2019. These approved suspensions allow for the continued suspension of the CET on the products until 31 December 2020.

The continuation of the suspension of the CET is necessary to provide support to the policy initiatives of the Government, minimize the cost of raw material imports for the private sector, and to maintain pricing of the items at an affordable rate for consumers to stabilize the cost of living given the current economic conditions. The Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA), Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, the Supermarkets' Association of Trinidad and Tobago and the Consumer Affairs Division of the MTI all supported the renewal of the suspension of the CET on these items.

7. OILS AND FATS AGREEMENT

The COTED received the Report of the First Meeting of the Conference on Oils and Fats which was convened via videoconference on April 4, 2019 and endorsed the recommendations of the Meeting to review the Oils and Fats Agreement. The recommendations included the submission of Member States' national positions on elements of the Oils and Fats Agreement to the CARICOM Secretariat. Trinidad and Tobago is undertaking consultations with the relevant stakeholders toward development of the national position.

The Oils and Fats Agreement is incorporated into the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas and seeks to support and encourage improved competitiveness and diversification of the Oils and Fats Sub-Sector, and promote intra-regional trade of products in this Sector. The Oils and Fats Sector includes the farmers and producers of oilseeds and their seedlings, as well as manufacturers of margarine, shortening and soaps including laundry soaps. In addition to sustaining the domestic coconut industry and helping the overall agricultural industry, several oils and fats are used as inputs in manufactured products. The Oils and Fats sector directly and indirectly employs over one thousand (1,000) persons locally.

8. Trade Missions/Trade Fairs

The MTI, through exporTT, embarked on an aggressive trade missions and trade fairs agenda in Fiscal 2019. Two (2) trade missions were executed: Canada Trade Mission in October 2018 and an Inward Buyers Mission in July 2019; and four (4) trade fairs attended to were as follows:

i. Canada Trade Mission

MTI led a delegation of eight (8) companies to Canada.

ii. Inward Buyers Mission

In Fiscal 2019, exporTT in collaboration with the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA) and other key sponsors hosted the 20th Annual Trade and Investment Convention (TIC) Inward Buyers' Mission. This Mission provided an opportunity for exporters to interact and network with foreign buyers, and facilitated a total of sixty-five (65) exporters and nine (9) professional buyers from The Netherlands, Canada, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica, Suriname and Guyana.

The buyers participating in the mission represented a cross-section of the following sectors:

- Animation Services;
- Food & Beverage;
- Printing & Packaging;
- Household & Industrial Cleaning Chemicals;
- Personal Care Products; and
- Construction.

iii. Havana Fair (FIHAV) – Cuba

In November 2018, the MTI led a delegation of twenty-six (26) companies including representatives from the Food & Beverage, Printing & Packaging, Construction Goods & Services, Energy Services, Financial Services, Conference Services and Logistics sectors.

iv. HUB – Dominican Republic

In March 2019, the MTI led a delegation of three (3) companies to Dominican Republic and facilitated forty (40) business-to-business meetings and discussions with key Ministries and agencies.

v. Expo Caribe – Santiago, Cuba

In June 2019, the MTI successfully led a mission organised by exporTT to Cuba comprising twenty-two (22) companies and forty-two (42) delegates inclusive of exporTT, Ministry officials and other business support agencies. The mission facilitated approximately two hundred (200) business-to-business meetings and discussions with key ministries and agencies. At this Mission, Trinidad and Tobago was the only country outside of Cuba to receive the following three (3) awards:

- First Place – Public Relations;
- First Place – Promotion of Products and Services; and
- Special Mention – Booth Design.

vi. LAC Flavor – Colombia

In September 2019, a total of three (3) companies were selected and sponsored by IDB, and one of the participants was invited and sponsored to attend LAC Flavors in South Korea. Montano's Chocolate invited three (3) of their business leads to the 2020 Inward Buyers Mission to meet small Trinidad & Tobago manufacturers in conjunction with exporTT.

9. WTO TRADE POLICY REVIEW (TPR)

In May 2019, a delegation headed by the Minister of Trade and Industry participated in Trinidad and Tobago's 4th Trade Policy Review (TPR) at the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in Geneva, Switzerland. This mandatory exercise is conducted every six (6) years by the WTO and critically examines the trade policies, strategies and measures implemented by WTO Members. During the 4th TPR, twenty-three (23) WTO Members reviewed and commented on Trinidad and Tobago's current trade policies and practices, resulting in over one hundred and sixty-five (165) written technical questions from the WTO Members.

Some of the key observations that emanated from the Review included, *inter alia*:

- i) "Trinidad and Tobago is a strong supporter of the multilateral trading system and a great example of how the global rules-based system provides opportunities for small economies;

- ii) Import and export trade plays a critical role in the economy of Trinidad and Tobago, with merchandise trade accounting for approximately 72% of GDP in 2017 (now 68% in 2018);
- iii) Trinidad and Tobago has an ambitious and liberal foreign investment regime targeting sectors as wide and varied as food and agriculture, the creative industries and software development, e-commerce, banking and telecoms services;
- iv) WTO Members were keen to see Trinidad and Tobago continue to develop and implement free trade agreements and regional trade agreements which it has already negotiated; and
- v) Trinidad and Tobago must continue to develop and implement policies that strengthen the business environment, improve the nation's competitiveness and diversify its trade".

10. exporTT

i. Business Development Programme (Export Capacity Building Programme)

In order to grow exports, especially in the non-energy sector, exporTT introduced a programme to boost the export competitiveness of domestic manufacturers. The primary purpose of the project is to increase the international competitiveness of local firms and to make them more sustainable in their operations, as well as, to build their capacity in export promotion. In Fiscal 2019, twenty (20) export related training programmes were conducted with two hundred and thirty-six (236) participants of which one hundred and twenty-six (126) unique companies attended.

ii. International Standards

Under this project for Fiscal 2019, eight (8) companies attained international standards or compliance as follows:

1. TriniWeenie Enterprises: GFSI STDS and ISO 22000
2. Cocoa Republic: GFSI STDS and ISO 22000

3. Imanex Limited: HACCP
4. Creamery Novelties: HACCP
5. Caribbean Wells: STOW ISO 9001: 2008; 14001:2018 and 45001:2018
6. Tobago Cocoa WI Ltd: Organic Certification of Environmental Standards
7. Calibra: Information Security Management System ISO 27001 and 9001
8. Nabi Construction: STOW ISO 9001: 2008; 14001:2018 and 45001:2018.

iii. Co-Financing Programme

In Fiscal 2019, a Co-Financing Grant Fund Facility was established in collaboration with exporTT for the promotion and development of e-Commerce in Trinidad and Tobago. This Co-Financing Grant Fund Facility enables businesses, especially MSMEs, to access funding to go online, market their goods and services online or upgrade their online stores. **Table 6** shows the breakdown on the Co-Financing disbursements.

Table 6: Breakdown on the Co-Financing Disbursements.

Fiscal 2019			
Number of Companies received assistance	Company	Amount (TT\$)	
13	Vtoria Rhonda Vineyard and Winery Company	\$3,315.00	
	Perfect Peppers	\$5,460.06	
	Cocoa Development Company		\$503.05
			\$1,435.00
			\$307.32
	Creamery Novelties		\$1,981.72
			\$1,597.35
			\$1,597.35
			\$1,597.35
	Caribbean Sheet and Tubular Industries	\$2,039.79	
	KC Confectionery	\$15,496.00	
	Imanex	\$522.50	

Fiscal 2019		
Number of Companies received assistance	Company	Amount (TT\$)
	L&S Services	\$7,717.21
		\$5,235.46
	Smaks Luxury Group Limited	\$3,313.21
	Kings Specialty	\$434.84
	Bee Pure Limited	\$329.00
	VEMCO	\$2,776.02
	Sidaico Image Services	\$10,086.98
	Total	\$65,092.48

4.4 Enhanced Protection and Empowerment of Consumers

➤ Consumer Education and Outreach

In Fiscal 2019, the Consumer Affairs Division (CAD) held thirty-two (32) outreach lectures on consumer rights and responsibilities which directly reached over one thousand eight hundred (1,800) persons. The CAD further strengthened its consumer awareness through talk shows and other promotional campaigns.

➤ Consumer Complaint Receipt and Redress

In Fiscal 2019, the computerized Consumer Complaints Management System was upgraded and operationalised. Furthermore, four hundred and sixty-three (463) out of six hundred and twenty-two (622) complaints were resolved which represented a total value of TT\$1,786,803.15 in complaint resolution during Fiscal 2019.

➤ Price Awareness Promotion Drive

In Fiscal 2019, the CAD embarked on a promotion campaign which involved a price awareness campaign. During the campaign CAD highlighted the various prices on basic commodities both in supermarkets and hardware stores throughout the country. This campaign increased

consumer sensitivity on various commodities prices and led to consumers being empowered to obtain the best value for their money.

4.5 Transformed Ministry Performance and Service Delivery

➤ MTI Monitoring & Evaluation Protocols

During Fiscal 2019, the Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Unit continued to gain greater prominence at the MTI. Some of the M&E initiatives include:

- i. Built Draft M&E Performance Framework components for the Trinidad and Tobago Trade Policy;
- ii. Established performance indicators for the MTI for the National Performance Framework Report 2020 (Vision 2030);
- iii. Commence building databases for the State Agencies for the MTI Knowledge Centre; and
- iv. Commence building draft M&E Performance Framework for the MTI.

➤ Improving Service Delivery at MTI

MTI filled the following vacancies at the Technical and Administrative level to ensure that the human capital is available to achieve its goal of transforming the ministry and improving its service delivery:

- Established: Statistical Officer
Research Officer I
Administrative officer IV (3)
- Contract Director of Legal Service
Director of Industry

The MTI will continue to liaise closely with the Service Commissions Department to ensure that all senior positions in the Ministry are filled in Fiscal 2020.

5.0 Financial Operations

5.1 Capital Expenditure

The following table provides a summary of the capital expenditure of projects under the Development Programme of the MTI. At the end of Fiscal 2018/2019, 90.15% of the Ministry's disbursement received under the Consolidated Fund was utilized while 99.99% of Ministry's disbursement received under the Infrastructure Development Fund was utilised.

Statement of Capital Expenditure Extract as at September 30, 2019 (End of Financial Period)						
Project No	Item/Sub-item/Group/Project	2019 Revised Allocation	Funds Disbursed by the MoF to MTI	Expenditure as at September 30, 2019 by Agency/MTI	Unspent Balance	Percentage of Disbursed Funds Utilised
F304	Development of a Business Development Programme	\$2,000,000	\$111,774	\$111,774	-	100%
R001	Investment Promotion Initiatives and Development	\$1,500,000	\$645,442	\$645,442	-	100%
R007	Establishment of Research and Development Facility	\$1,000,000	\$205,000	\$205,000	-	100%
R016	Enhancement of the	\$30,000,000	\$23,223,728	\$20,537,299.43	\$2,686,498.57	88.4%

	Single Electronic Window (IDB Loan)					
R019	Development of the Music Industry	\$1,000,000	\$815,225	\$815,225	-	100%
R021	Development of the Film Industry	\$1,000,000	\$757,564	\$757,564	-	100%
R023	Development of the Fashion Industry	\$2,000,000	\$1,966,060	\$1,966,060	-	100%
B220	TTBS-Enhancing the Quality Infrastructure for Trinidad and Tobago	\$1,500,000	\$128,000	\$128,000	-	100%
A003	Upgrading of Information Technology and Information Systems at the Ministry of Trade and Industry	\$790,000	\$266,189	\$258,782.14	\$7,406.89	97.2%
A008	Inward Investment - Non Petroleum Initiatives	\$1,500,000	\$184,340.00	\$184,339.63	\$0.37	99.99%

A018	Feasibility Study of the Export Financing Mechanism for Service Providers and Pilot Programmes (Now, Services Exporters Registry)	\$600,000	\$119,644	\$119,644	-	100%
A020	Implementation of the National e-Commerce Strategy	\$500,000	\$19,063.00	\$2,000.00	\$17,063.00	10.49%
A022	Consumer Profile Study	\$300,000	-	-	-	-
	Total of Development Programme	\$43,690,000	\$28,442,029	\$25,631,060.20	\$2,710,968.83	90.15%
Q293	Wallerfield Industrial and Technological Park	\$1,500,000	\$1,319,908	\$1,319,908	-	100%
Q303	Single Electronic Window for Trade & Business	\$8,200,063.00	\$7,871,520.00	\$7,870,640	\$880.00	99.99%

Q305	Construction of Moruga Agro-Processing and Light Industrial Park	\$24,319,937.00	\$21,604,496	\$21,604,496	-	100%
	Total of Infrastructure Development Fund	\$34,020,000	\$30,795,924	\$30,795,044	880.00	99.99%
	Grand Total	\$77,710,000	\$59,237,953	\$56,426,104.20	\$2,711,848.83	95.25%

6.0 Human Resource Development Plan

The Human Resources Unit (HRU) is charged with managing the selection and development of the human capital of the MTI. To do this, the HRU facilitates the recruitment and development of staff to ensure that a competent talent pool is available to support the execution of the MTI mandate.

To ensure the continued development of staff during Fiscal 2019, the HRU conducted training and championed the full adoption of the performance appraisal process. Additionally, the HRU reviewed and implemented a new Orientation and Onboarding Programme and the Employee Assistance Programme. With regard to the complement of staff, the table below provides a summary of total, permanent and contract staff at the MTI.

6.1 Organisational Permanent and Contract Establishments in MTI

Total Number of Non-Contract positions	265
Actual Number of Persons employed in Established Permanent positions	102
Number of Vacant Established Permanent positions	163
Total Number of Contract Positions	93
Actual Number of Contract Employees currently employed	53
Number of Vacant Contract Positions	40

7.0 Procurement Procedures

In preparation for the impending implementation of the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act 2016 (Amended) by the GoRTT, the MTI undertook the initiative to establish an interim procurement team to prepare for the adoption of the new procurement legislation.

In this regard, the Ministry has:

1. Created procurement process forms 1 to 5 related to the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act 2016;
2. Created an Evaluation template to be used for any procurement undertaken by the MTI;
3. Upgraded the filing system related to the procurement process; and
4. Conducted internal procurement workshop related to the Public Procurement and Disposal of Public Property Act 2016.

Furthermore, in Fiscal 2019, the MTI participated in a procurement workshop conducted by the Office of the Procurement Regulator. The main objectives for these trainings were:

- i. To provide participants with a working knowledge of the procurement regulations;
- ii. To provide participants with an understanding of procurement procedures and the need for the development, implementation, and management of procurement procedures; and
- iii. To provide participants with the foundational knowledge to integrate the regulation requirements into procurements for the organisation.

8.0 Public and Community Relations

In Fiscal 2019, the MTI supported the following initiatives:

➤ **Launch of Gasparillo Chamber of Commerce**

On September 10, 2019, to create opportunities for young entrepreneurs in the Gasparillo region and environs and to boost job creation in the area, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon delivered a feature address on the opening of the Chamber and stated that these SMEs remain the backbone of our economy and the sheer number, diversity and dynamism of these businesses position them as unequalled social and economic forces.



➤ **Official Project Launch of the Alutech Facility**

To promote economic prosperity in the eastern communities of TT and support job creation, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon delivered a presentation at the Opening Project Launch of the Alutech Facility on October 3, 2018 where the Honourable Prime Minister was the main Speaker.



➤ **National Petroleum Marketing Company Fuel Verification Launch**

To ultimately bring an improvement in the quality of fuel provided by stations operating in the country, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon affirmed that this programme ensures that fuel being retailed to the population is of high quality, and the metrology is to ensure that the quantities that are delivered to the consumer from the pumps are what is expected.



➤ **Empowering Entrepreneurs through e-Commerce and e-Services**

Acknowledging that e-Commerce is big business and continues to grow at unprecedented rates when compared to the traditional retail sector, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon challenged entrepreneurs to invest in the technology, skills, resources and strategies required to exploit e-commerce. On March 20, 2019, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon's featured address reiterated that the National e-Commerce Strategy was to ensure that businesses have the necessary tools and resources to derive tangible benefits from e-commerce. This must be supported by the required legal and regulatory framework which will also form the basis for the establishment of a larger digital economy.



➤ **Opening Ceremony for the Creative and Cultural Industries Workshop**

The creative sector is a viable option for growing exports and further economic diversification. On March 28, 2019, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon further underscored that the Government of Trinidad and Tobago recognizes that the country must move away from its full dependence on oil and natural gas exports, and that the possibilities within the creative and cultural industries to contribute to export diversification must be exploited.



➤ **Chocolate Box Trinidad Hilton Official Opening Ceremony**

On Thursday April 18, 2019, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon formally opened The Chocolate Box, Trinidad and Tobago Fine Cocoa Company's first store front location at the Hilton Trinidad and Conference Centre. The opening of this outlet is part of broader efforts to revitalize and expand both the cocoa and



chocolate industries in Trinidad and Tobago.

➤ **Certificate Distribution Ceremony of the Ultra-Bespoke Tailoring Programme**

On July 29, 2019, the Minister of Trade and Industry, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon delivered her address on the success stories from the Ultra-Bespoke Tailoring Programme. The Minister highlighted that the Programme was introduced in 2018 in keeping with the Government's mandate to build export capacity in the fashion industry and successfully position products made in Trinidad and Tobago in international markets.



➤ **Launch of the Live Music District App**

Local musicians and managers of performance venues in Port of Spain and environs can now book live acts and make payments online via AMPT – a new app developed by MusicTT. The AMPT app was launched on September 6, 2019 by the Minister of Trade and Industry, Senator the Honourable Paula Gopee-Scoon. The Minister lauded the work being undertaken by MusicTT to increase the economic viability of local musicians noting that the development of technology-driven innovation and entrepreneurship align perfectly with the Government's National Development Strategy/Vision 2030. Her feature address emphasized, *inter alia*, that a functioning system of intellectual property rights is fundamental to successful commercialisation and must be upheld in order for the local Music Industry to thrive.



9.0 The Way Forward

In Fiscal 2020, the MTI will aim to implement those policy initiatives approved by the Cabinet. The MTI will also seek to execute initiatives designed to support the achievement of its mandate for business, trade, investment and consumer empowerment. These initiatives will include the following main projects:

- The implementation of the ***Trinidad and Tobago Trade Policy*** for Trinidad and Tobago aimed at growing exports.
- Continue the facilitation of donors through the implementation of the **Aid for Trade Strategy**.
- Continue the implementation of the new Revised **Research and Development Facility** under exporTT.
- Continue the implementation of the ***National Quality Policy***.
- Continue the implementation of the **Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Policy**.
- Continue the implementation of the **National e-Commerce Strategy**.
- Continue the implementation and expansion of the ***Single Electronic Window***.
- Continued tenanting of the new ***Agro-Processing & Light Industrial Park*** in Moruga.
- Continued tenanting of ***Tamana In-Tech Park***.
- Continue the development of the new ***Phoenix Industrial Park*** in Couva focused on light and high value manufacturing.
- Continue the development of the ***Alutech Research and Development Facility (ARDF)*** at the Tamana InTech Park (TIP) focused on high value manufacturing.

- Continue the Negotiation of **Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements** with key strategic partners.
- Conduct **Ease of Doing Business** reforms which include:
 - the implementation of a new Legal Framework for Secured Transactions;
 - the digitisation of Records of the Town and Country Planning Division;
 - the implementation of an automated system for construction permits; and
 - the development of Trade and Business Information Portal.
- Continue the implementation of **reforms under the Investment Facilitation Committee**.
- Continue the implementation of the **Grant Fund Facility** to support small and medium businesses in the manufacturing and agro-processing sectors.
- Continue the implementation of the **Research and Development Facility** to help manufacturing and service companies develop innovative products, processes, systems and services.
- Continue implementation of the Framework for the development of the Maritime Sector.
- Continue the implementation the **Yachting Policy**.
- Continue the various Phases of the **Live Music District** which will create new opportunities in the music industry and address the concerns of local stakeholders.
- Continue the implementation of an **Artist Portfolio Development Programme (Spotlight)** aimed at creating a strong, balanced portfolio of artistes to be readied for commercialisation and international export.
- Continue the development and implementation of the Music Tech Platform.

- Operationalize the *Local Garment Production Facility*.

- Continued implementation of the ***Fashion Value Chain Programme*** which builds capacity in different areas in the Fashion Sector.

- Continued implementation of the *Bespoke Tailoring Programme* which builds capacity in different areas in the Fashion Sector.

10.0 Conclusion

In Fiscal 2019, the MTI embarked on a number of initiatives designed to lead and oversee the implementation of the GoRTT' policy for business development, trade, investment and consumer empowerment.

The MTI was successful in the execution of its main initiatives for Fiscal 2019. These initiatives resulted in improving ease of doing business, building business capacity for firms within the sectors targeted for diversification, facilitating investments and strengthening exports.

Initiatives executed included:

- i. Cabinet approved National Trade Policy;
- ii. Continued implementation of Grant Fund Facility for the manufacturing sector;
- iii. Implementation of the revised Research and Development Fund;
- iv. Enhancements of various modules in the Single Electronic Window for businesses;
- v. Continued implementation of the Investment Facilitation Framework for investment approvals;
- vi. Launch of the Music Tech Platform in the Music Sector;
- vii. Continued implementation of the Ultra Bespoke Tailoring Programme for the Fashion Industry;
- viii. Facilitation of trade missions to explore and grow exports; and
- ix. Implementation of export capacity building programmes.

In Fiscal 2020, the MTI will continue to support of the achievement of the NDS 2030 through the execution of its Strategic Plan 2016 to 2020. The MTI is dedicated to improving and sustaining the non-energy sector and will pursue initiatives that will contribute to the creation of a stable macroeconomic environment to allow for entrepreneurship; attracting investment and trade; and, producing high value products and services that can compete in export markets.