



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago

Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism

Remarks by

Dr. Colin Neil Gosine, Parliamentary Secretary  
Ministry of Trade, Investment and Tourism

***GRAND OPENING OF THE  
NEW COURTS MEGASTORE***

Wednesday, November 19th, 2025

## Salutations

- The Most Reverend Archbishop Charles Jason Gordon, Metropolitan Archbishop of Port of Spain.
- The Honourable Devesh Maharaj, Minister of Justice.
- Mr. Guillermo Siman, Executive Vice President, Unicomer Group
- Mr. Felix Siman, Vice President and Caribbean Managing Director, Unicomer Caribbean
- Mr. Shiva Mungal, Managing Director, Unicomer Trinidad Limited
- Mrs. Nicole Lum Kin, Director – Commercial, Unicomer Trinidad Limited
- Members of the Business Community
- Members of the Media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here this morning to be part of the grand opening of this magnificent New Megastore. This building represents more than just a retail space; it is a strong demonstration of investor and business confidence and a testament to the robust, growing potential of our nation's retail distribution sector.

This opening could not have been timelier as Global Entrepreneurship Week is being celebrated at this time with the theme: “Together we Build”. It is through investments like this that we are indeed building our economy. The Ministry is very encouraged by these large-scale projects and encourages other businesses to emulate this business model.

Over the past 25 years Unicomer has become one of the top retail distribution companies in Latin America and the Caribbean, with a reach of millions of people through its 25+ brands and operations in more than 20 countries employing over 13,000 persons. These encouraging indications has transformed Courts into a household name in Trinidad and Tobago and the Caribbean for over six decades.

Our citizens deserve world-class choice, quality, and service, and this new Megastore is expected to meet and exceed the needs of all consumers. By offering accessible financial services and a wide range of quality products, Courts will ensure that its tagline of: "bringing value home" is both realistic and achievable.

The commercial presence of this New Megastore is indeed a strategic one as it adds to the already flourishing industrial landscape in the San Juan and environs such as Aranguez and El

Socorro. This region serves as the gateway to the Capital-Port of Spain to the West and connects other bustling business districts to the East and even Central and South creating a hub of economic activity.

San Juan is home to some of the country's leading manufacturers in the Food and Beverage Industry including the famous Solo Beverages, Associated Brands and InstaChem, as well as other popular retail outlets such as Xtra Foods, Starbucks, NuWave Automotive, the Aranguez Food Hub, and the, soon to be opened, Aranguez South Commercial Complex. This cluster of businesses complement each other and it is no coincidence that all of them have chosen to locate in the busy San Juan commercial district. San Juan has a type of attractiveness that encourages business to locate in the area!

From our perspective, the Government is also committed to making the process of investment, construction, and operation as smooth as possible. We are actively implementing many initiatives to make doing business easier. Of note is the Permit and Licensing Modernization through a Unified Online Government Platform and is aimed squarely at reducing the red tape and delays that challenge businesses of all sizes. We are also focused on transforming payments such as the electronic payment systems at the Customs and Excise Division—ensuring T&T remains competitive.

To support these initiatives the Ministry will be launching a patriotic "Buy Local, Build Trinbago" national campaign as well as the formal unveiling of the Private Sector Organisation of Trinidad and Tobago (PSOTT) in early December. These initiatives will reaffirm the Ministry's connection with the private sector, reduce imports, conserve foreign exchange and strengthen domestic supply chains. They also send a powerful signal that T&T is "open for business"!

Our trade and investment targets are bold and achievable. Together with the private sector, we are aiming for export revenue growth of US\$2 billion in 2 years, and US\$5 billion over 5 years. As it relates to investments, we are aiming for US\$3 billion in new investments over the next two years, and US\$9 billion over 5 years, as well as the creation of thousands of new jobs. We encourage you, the private sector, to join with us in achieving these targets.

The Ministry remains committed to facilitating and supporting businesses—local and international—that choose to invest here, contribute to our GDP, and empower our workforce. This Megastore is an affirmation that when the private sector and the Government work collaboratively, real, impactful development is not only possible but is actually achieved.

The Ministry extends its sincere congratulations to the visionary management and dedicated staff of the Unicomer Group for realizing this vision. To the people of Trinidad and Tobago, I encourage you to visit and patronize this incredible new space. In closing, I also take this opportunity to extend season's greetings to you, your family and customers and may God choicest blessings be with you and yours for Christmas and the New Year.