



MEDIA RELEASE

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T&T CHAMBER ADVOCATES PROPER INTER-ISLAND TRANSPORT SERVICES

It comes as no surprise to us, at the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce, that the Superfast Galicia is being pulled from the inter-island transport service. Since December 1, 2016, it had been well documented that the vessel was scheduled to operate on a route in the Mediterranean Sea in May 2017.

At that time, all assurances were given that provisions for appropriate and effective sea transport would be established. The Honourable Minister of Works and Transport clearly articulated that he appreciated the value of the cargo services of the Superfast Galicia and the ferry services of the TnT Spirit and Express, to the people and to business in Tobago. He also indicated that he would ensure that there would be no inconvenience on his watch.

The Tobago Division of the T&T Chamber wishes to highlight that the two fast ferry vessels currently in use are both unreliable. Not surprisingly, the airbridge also appears to be experiencing some challenges.

If these issues remain unchecked, the already untenable situation within the tourism and commercial sectors would be further exacerbated - especially with the approaching Easter holiday weekend and the Tobago Jazz Experience following closely on its heels.

Inter-island transportation is a veritable lifeline on which all of Tobago depends to sustain day to day living on the island. It is hoped that the authorities responsible for facilitating these services will urgently and publicly address alternative plans to effectively transfer goods, services and people between the islands of Trinidad and Tobago.

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