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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**March 15, 2017**

### **T&T Chamber Advocates Speedy Establishment of New Tourism Entity**

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce and more specifically, its Tobago Division, has noted recent statements by the Honourable Minister of Tourism regarding Government's plans to dissolve the Tourism Development Company (TDC). All reports to date indicate that Government intends to develop two distinct entities to manage separately, the marketing and promotion of Tobago and Trinidad.

While the merits and demerits of this decision can be debated at length, what remains of greatest concern is the fact that the establishment of the new tourism entity is not likely to be in the immediate future.

As it stands, Tobago's economy depends heavily on a thriving travel and tourism industry. Unfortunately, however, the records reflect that tourist arrivals on the island have been at its lowest ever in recent history. With the peak season fewer than three months away, the T&T Chamber calls upon the Government to waste no time in ensuring that a new tourism entity is up and effectively functioning.

Neither sluggish nor whimsical attempts to address the matter would sit well with any of the key stakeholders within the tourism eco-system. Indeed, far too much is at stake, given Tobago's declining position as the preferred destination for travellers.

Given the circumstances, the T&T Chamber views this matter as one which requires urgent attention. To this end, representatives of the T&T Chamber and the Tobago Division stand ready and willing to meet with Government and other key interest groups sooner - rather than later- to effect a speedy resolve.

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