



MEDIA RELEASE

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THE PASSING OF DR. ANTHONY N. SABGA

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce was deeply saddened to learn today of the passing of Dr. Anthony N. Sabga, ORTT - businessman extraordinaire and patriarch of the Sabga family of Trinidad and Tobago. We extend our sincerest sympathies to his family, close friends and relatives.

Born in Syria in 1923, Dr. Sabga arrived in Trinidad with his family in 1930. At just 14 years of age, he joined the family business on Queen Street, marking the beginning of his long and stellar career.

Known for his sharp mind and business acumen, Dr. Sabga played a pivotal role in several areas of national life. His entrepreneurial ventures encompassed manufacturing, retail, agro-processing and more. He founded ANSA Industries in the immediate post-Independence era, working at that time with licensing arrangements from large international corporations, to manufacture stoves, refrigerators and other electrical appliances. These were exported to other islands in the years before CARICOM was established. He also founded Standard Distributors and Carib Brewery - household names today.

Dr. Sabga's response to economic and structural adjustment challenges of the 1980s was to expand and invest in local enterprise. Through the acquisition of the McEneaney Alston's Group, ANSA McAL was birthed and today stands as one of the strongest publicly traded companies on the local stock exchange, with a wide regional presence.

His philanthropic work extended to a slew of causes – most notable among them, the Anthony N. Sabga Caribbean Awards for Excellence (ANSCAFE) – a leading recognition programme in Arts, Sciences, and Public and Civic Work, launched in October 2005.

According to Gabriel Faria, Chief Executive Officer of the T&T Chamber, Dr. Sabga's work ethic was beyond reproach.

"His passion and commitment to doing what he loved most never waned... even in his post-retirement years", said Faria, "and that, to me, was one of his most outstanding qualities... one that is well worth emulating, if we would like to be as productive as he was".

Among the many awards and accolades, a Doctor of Laws Degree, Honoris Causa was conferred upon Dr. Sabga in 1998 by the University of the West Indies. In 2008, he was inducted into the Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce's Business Hall of Fame in recognition of a lifetime of excellence in business.

Dr. Anthony N. Sabga will be sorely missed - not only by those in the business community, but by the people whom he supported and mentored through the years. He leaves behind a solid legacy and a sterling example of a life well-lived.

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