

MEDIA STATEMENT

February 29th, 2024

T&T Chamber Welcomes Prime Minister's Statements Following Caricom Heads of Government Meeting

The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce (T&T Chamber) welcomes the recent statements made by the Honourable Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago, following the recently concluded Caricom Heads of Government meeting held in Guyana.

The spotlight placed on a coordinated legislative approach towards full freedom of movement, scheduled to commence in March 2024, and the subsequent removal of internal barriers inhibiting regional commerce, marks a significant stride for all private sectors within Caricom.

The notable references to deeper engagement with Guyana in the realm of agriculture hold promise for fostering a regional agri-value chain approach, promoting greater food security, and facilitating new export development and foreign exchange earnings. The TTCIC advocates for a holistic regional approach, leveraging individual comparative advantages across related sectors to expedite agri-business development within the region.

The T&T Chamber eagerly anticipates playing a meaningful role in stakeholder engagement and targeted actions aligned with fulfilling this agenda. Our commitment to regionally focused trade, diplomatic ties, and trade facilitation initiatives remains steadfast. We are dedicated to fortifying these efforts to enhance regional security and cooperation.

Additionally, the T&T Chamber emphasizes the importance of public-private partnerships in key areas highlighted by the Prime Minister's report. We believe that the free movement of CARICOM citizens is essential for regional success and sustainability. Addressing barriers to goods and services is crucial for fostering growth and seizing opportunities for all stakeholders.

Our Food Security, Agriculture, and Fisheries Committee is preparing to actively engage with the government to formulate recommendations aimed at advancing this sector. We are encouraged by the positive discussions between our countries and look forward to supporting initiatives that promote regional prosperity.

We anticipate further information on enhancing national security measures. Crime poses a significant threat to our country's development, and we stand ready to support the implementation of new strategies if required.

The T&T Chamber remains committed to fostering regional collaboration and prosperity, and we are optimistic about the opportunities presented by the outcomes of the Caricom Heads of Government meeting.

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