
MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Another step in restarting the economy

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The Trinidad and Tobago Chamber of Industry and Commerce notes that today, the Government has taken another step in restarting the economy by allowing some sectors which were partially open to have increased activity. We note that they have maintained the reduced customer densities to conform to physical distancing guidelines and we fully support this. We also look forward to increased airlift capacity between Trinidad and Tobago.

We hoped for further easing of restrictions; however we recognize this is the most delicate balancing act confronting the Government, our society and the world at this time. We look forward to successfully navigating this next phase to be able to have increased activity in the coming weeks and months.

The Government cannot do this alone; all members of society have a part to play. To this end the Chamber reached out to most of the sectors which have either been partly or fully closed to ensure they understood the significant responsibility they have in keeping their customers and employees safe. We then engaged the Ministry of Health to provide additional details on the protocols developed by each of the sectors and we appreciate the Ministry's positive feedback.

We recognize that while many sectors have been reopened there are still those which have been closed for almost eight months. It is a challenging financial environment for many businesses, and we hope that the Government will target the appropriate fiscal support for those tax compliant businesses which can show the debilitating impact this is having on them.

The T&T Chamber believes that it is crucial that we create the framework to operate in a COVID-19 environment, which could last to the end of 2021. We therefore support active management by the authorities to penalize those who are not compliant with either warning, fines or if necessary, the closure of establishments who repeatedly flaunt the laws. We also reiterate our recommendation for the creation of a compliance unit to ensure the strictest adherence and enforcement of the protocols.

The T&T Chamber has been and continues to be fully supportive of the work done by the government and specifically the Ministry of Health in coping with COVID-19.

As a nation we have too much to lose if the infection rates increase, not only in terms of COVID-19 directly but also the ripple effects of increased crime, impact on mental health and domestic violence, if we do not act responsibly.

We commend the majority of our citizens for their compliance to the safety protocols. We have the collective responsibility and capacity to keep each other safe and the T&T Chamber stands ready to do our part as a representative of the Business Community.

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FROM THE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT