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T&T Chamber looks forward to the roll out of the “Vaccinate & Operate” Plan

The T&T Chamber is pleased to hear of the pending arrival of additional vaccines, which should get us relatively close to herd immunity.

We are encouraged by the Minister of Health’s announcement on the plans to increase the vaccination levels as well as the prioritization of essential frontline workers and other sectors as part of the “vaccinate and operate” plan. Based on the vaccines acquired, as mentioned by the Honourable Prime Minister, we look forward to continuous updates on the arrival of the tranches of vaccines and frequent reporting on the key vaccination metrics.

Regarding the announcement that specific sectors will be allowed to travel, we now look forward to more details on the reopening of the borders. This will allow the country to start moving in the direction of stimulating economic activity while doing so responsibly. It will also allow Caribbean Airlines the opportunity to restart more of its operations and reduce its dependency on the Treasury.

The T&T Chamber recognizes the severity of the situation as the daily infection rates seems to be showing only a marginal improvement. Therefore we understand the need to increase measures to restrict casual movement among the population.

Given the need for continued restrictions, we firmly believe that the Government needs to reconsider its position on financial support to the business community. Additionally, long outstanding amounts of VAT and tax refunds along with amounts owed to suppliers need to be paid. This is a legal obligation, which must be honoured immediately by the Government.

It also makes it more important to allow businesses who have the capacity to leverage their digital infrastructure, to conduct business responsibly, while keeping staff and customers safe and providing much needed services.

The T&T Chamber is part of a private sector led initiative – the “Let’s each do our part” campaign (www.ttbeatcovid19.com). In collaboration with other Business Service Organizations including the T&T Publishers and Broadcasters Association and the Advertising Agencies Association of Trinidad and Tobago, we are rolling out a communications campaign to encourage responsible behaviour and address vaccination hesitancy.

We remain committed to working with the Government to create a cohesive plan to restart the economy responsibly while keeping our citizens safe.

Our belief is that strong businesses are the foundation of a prosperous T&T, we also recognize that businesses can achieve their fullest potential by ensuring we create a safe and prosperous environment for our citizens.

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FROM THE MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT