



## Joint Select Committee on Foreign Affairs

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### Public Hearing Summary

Wednesday December 14, 2016 at 10:11 a.m.

#### Topic:

Inquiry into the Draft Summary of Recommendations and Conclusions of the Forty-First Meeting of the Council for Trade and Economic Development (COTED).

#### Committee Members:

The following Committee Members were present for the meeting:

- Ms. Marlene Mc Donald – Chairman
- Mrs. Paula Gopee-Scoon, MP– Vice Chairman
- Mr. Terrence Deyalsingh, MP – Member
- Ms. Shamfa Cudjoe, MP – Member
- Mr. Rodney Charles, MP – Member
- Mr. Avinash Singh– Member
- Mr. Rodger Samuel - Member

#### Witnesses who appeared:

##### Ministry of Health

- Mr. Richard Madray      Permanent Secretary
- Ms. Yvonne Lewis      Director, Health Education
- Mr. Farz Khan      Chief Chemist, Director of Chemistry, Food and Drugs Division

##### Ministry of Trade and Industry

- Mr. Norris Herbert      Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Ms. Dana Iles      State Counsel III
- Ms. Trudy Lewis      Senior Economist (Ag.)
- Ms. Donna De Four      Senior Economist

##### Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturers' Association (TTMA)

- Ms. Joy Francis      Team Lead, Trade Unit
- Mr. Christian George      Senior Trade Specialist

## **Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs**

- Mrs. Jennifer Daniel                      Permanent Secretary (Ag.)
- Ms. Jennifer Marchand                      Director, CARICOM and the Caribbean Affairs Division
- Ms. Lynne Mohammed                      Foreign Service Officer

### **Key Issues Discussed with the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs:**

- Impact of US Politics on Caribbean Basin Trade and Partnership Agreement (CBTPA).
- Challenges of the Ministry in facilitating and promoting trade in foreign countries.
- The need for increased Trade attachés for the Embassies, High Commissions and Consulates to promote and facilitate trade with Trinidad and Tobago internationally.

### **Key Issues Discussed with the Ministry of Health:**

- The lack of legislation and functional laboratories to test herbal supplements.
- Testing should be conducted on all foreign drugs regardless of a Notice of approval.
- Ensuring that Mechanisms that should be put in place to ensure that local fish are within the required health standards.
- The initiatives of the Ministry of Health on the prevention, reduction and control of childhood obesity in Trinidad and Tobago.
- Inadequate testing for beef and poultry products by various regulatory agencies to ensure its safe consumption.

### **Key Issues Discussed with the Ministry of Trade and Industry:**

- The role of the private sector in the advancement of trade and economic policy.
- The possibility of collaborating with foreign institutions through the private sector.
- Facilitating co-operation between the public and private sector.
- The finalisation of the establishment of the Public Procurement Regime in Trinidad and Tobago.

### **Key Issues Discussed with the Trinidad and Tobago Manufacturer's Association (TTMA):**

- Issues that affect the efficiency of the private sector.
- The issues and improvements faced by the private sector pertaining to the ease of doing business in Trinidad and Tobago.
- The development of Trade missions through increased networking in foreign countries to facilitate markets for local goods.

- The initiatives of the Ministry of Trade and Industry, ExporTT and AMCHAM in conjunction with the TTMA to aid and train local small enterprises in trade in foreign countries.

**View the Hearing:**

The hearing can be viewed on our YouTube page via the following link:

<https://youtu.be/ei4yYS89sYg>

**Contact Information:**

You may contact the Committee's Secretary at [jscfa@ttparliament.org](mailto:jscfa@ttparliament.org) or 624-7275 Ext. 2226/2317.

*Committees Unit  
December 14, 2016*