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

Topic:

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:

- 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/ei4vYS89sYg

**Contact Information:**
You may contact the Committee’s Secretary at jscfa@ttparliament.org or 624-7275 Ext. 2226/2317.

*Committees Unit*
*December 14, 2016*